

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section _____ Page _____

=====

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 72000231

Date Listed: 06/21/2016

Los Angeles Plaza Historic District

Additional Documentation

Property Name

Los Angeles

County

CA

State

N/A

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

6/21/16

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Resource Count:

The revised Resource Count for the entire district should read:

- 20 contributing buildings (#3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,13,14,15,16,17,18,21,22,23,24,26,& 27)
- 2 contributing sites (#1 and 4)
- 6 non-contributing buildings (#2, 12, 19, 25, 28, & 29)
- 1 non-noncontributing structure (#20)
- 29 total resources.

[This corresponds to the information provided in the narrative and the district sketch map.]

[All of the above resources were previously listed as part of the 1972 nomination, except for Buildings #2, Old Plaza Church Rectory and #19, Avila Annex, which were completed after 1972. The previously listed and counted Brunswig Annex was demolished in 2008.]

Acreage:

The original acreage count of 42 acres in the 1972 nomination was incorrect and has been revised to accurately represent the approximately 9.5 acre site identified on the district map.

These clarifications were confirmed with the CA SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1/10/72 PH 0112640

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Los Angeles	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER NOV 3	DATE 1972

1. NAME

COMMON: Los Angeles Plaza Historical ~~Group~~ ^{District}

AND/OR HISTORIC: El Pueblo de Los Angeles (State Historic Park)

2. LOCATION

revised
re letter
of Dec 12, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: ^{Bounded by: Spring St, Macy Street, Alameda Street}
~~North Main St. Between Arcadia St. & Sunset Blvd. - Alameda~~
Arcadia Street. (See Umap dated Sept 21, 1972, revised Dec 7, 1972)

CITY OR TOWN: ~~Los Angeles~~
and Spring Street

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: Los Angeles CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: A combination of State, City, and church property -
State of California, City of Los Angeles & Los Angeles Diocese

STREET AND NUMBER: Department of Parks and Recreation, Sacramento;
City of Los Angeles; Catholic Diocese

CITY OR TOWN: Los Angeles STATE: California CODE: 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER: 200 North Broadway

CITY OR TOWN: Los Angeles STATE: California CODE: 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: California Historical Landmarks Advisory Committee

DATE OF SURVEY: 1960 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER: 1416 9th Street

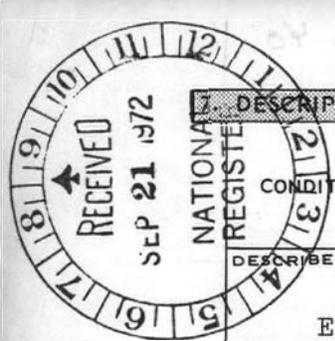
CITY OR TOWN: Sacramento STATE: California CODE: 06

STATE: California
COUNTY: Los Angeles
ENTRY NUMBER: NOV 3 1972
DATE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY



DESCRIPTION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
CONDITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic District, the area where Los Angeles was founded and the hub of its growth during the Hispanic and American (19th Century) eras, retains a rich composite group of buildings as evidence of the blending ethnic groups and cultures which founded this City and shaped its subsequent growth.

Within this area, appropriately enough close to the center of modern downtown Los Angeles (see top picture opposite), are several buildings of historic authenticity and representing the several architectural styles which appeared at various times during the City's growth. While all historic buildings had been modified somewhat by additions or other alterations over many decades by the time the State Historic Park was established in 1953, current intensive research and restorative efforts seek to reestablish pristine authenticity.

The Plaza Church (1822) represents the Mission Adobe period (1818-1846). The Pico House (1869) is a well-preserved example of Victorian brick and stone structures erected in the area between 1869 to 1890. Later pre-20th Century structures of concrete and plaster also still stand.

Other specific buildings of historic interest within the Plaza District include the Pelanconi House (two-story brick, 1855) and Sepulveda House (two-story brick, 1860), both now authentically restored after intense research; Firehouse (two-story brick, 1884); the Avila Adobe (one-story adobe, 1818); Merced Theater (three-story brick, 1869); Masonic Hall (two-story brick, 1858); Garnier Building (two-story cut stone and brick structure, 1890).

As mentioned, some of these buildings have been restored or stabilized. For example, the Avila Adobe, considerably damaged during the February, 1971 earthquake, is being fully restored to appear as it was in the period of its greatest historical significance.

Other buildings of later days are interspersed about the Plaza Square or flanking Olvera Street -- a brick-paved arcade filled with stalls, shops and restaurants all tastefully accenting the Mexican motif. Some of the later buildings are, or will be functionally preserved, others will be replaced with developments compatible with the area. Those few of the developments and activities within the District not precisely historic in design or flavor contribute to historic preservation by creating an atmosphere and providing facilities to make possible the active participation of concessionaires serving and, indeed, helping attract the growing volume of visitors coming annually to see this active area with authentic and uninterrupted links to its historic past. (See bottom picture opposite).

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Item 8

page 1

(Missing)

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since 1781 for one reason or another. (See maps opposite). It played a major role in the history of the American frontier and the westward movement and, as such, has had truly national significance since the day it was founded.

Today's Plaza area is the living composite story of Los Angeles' growth from Indian times prior to 1781 through Spanish, Mexican and American periods to become the nation's largest city on the Pacific basin.

The Plaza area of Los Angeles offers a unique opportunity for telling the story of the founding and growth of the nation's third-largest city. This 42-acre area with its historic structures annually attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors coming from every state in the Union and most of the nations of the world, as well as a never-ending stream of local residents, particularly school children.

One may stand in the Plaza kiosk and hear historic bronze bells of the Plaza Church (1822) summoning worshippers today just as they did 150 years ago. From here may be seen the Avila Adobe (1818) used by Commodore Stockton, General Stephen Kearny and General Fremont as a headquarters and government house. Kit Carson knew this adobe well. Just south of the Kiosk is the Pico House, built in 1869 by the last Mexican governor of California. Also in the area is the Merced Theater (1869); La Casa Pelanconi, possibly Los Angeles' first brick house and ultimately the house of Jose Mascarel who was Mayor of Los Angeles shortly after the Civil War; Sepulveda House (1870); the Old Plaza Fire House (1884) now housing one of the city's first fire engines; the Garnier Building of early Victorian architectural style; and the Masonic Hall, the first lodge building of this venerable order in Southern California.

The inexorable march of human events through successive generations, frequently of national significance, has continually touched this area since its founding nearly 200 years ago as a Pueblo, one of only two Pueblos founded in California by Spanish colonizers (other population centers dating back to that time began as Missions), and the only Pueblo to survive to this day.

The Plaza is a living historical district for which even greater restorative efforts are a continuing goal; a truly national monument to preserve for generations yet unborn tangible evidence of the dreams and efforts of colonizing generations long turned to dust.

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Beginning with 44 settlers recruited in the Sinaloa area by Mexico, by 1800 Los Angeles contained a population of 350 inhabitants. In 1815 the original Plaza was relocated to its present area as a means of evading flood. In 1818 a new church was built, identified in records as Chiesa de Nuestra Senora la Reina de Los Angeles. Services there began in 1822 and continue to the present day. Its historic bronze bells summon those who are members of the church now even as they did nearly 150 years ago.

Standing nearby is the Avila House, the oldest residence in the City of Los Angeles and one of the oldest adobe structures in the State. Owned originally by Francisco Avila, it became so involved with political intrigue that it was known for years as "La Casa Revolucionaria". When Avila was killed as a result of his revolutionary activities, the family settled down to less vigorous living, interrupted by events related to the war with Mexico when their adobe served briefly as Commodore Robert F. Stockton's headquarters.

During this early period, the Plaza became a fashionable area for residential construction; the Carrillos, Sepulvedas, Lugos, Olveras, and other leaders of the community having built their homes there. The current Sepulveda House, located in the heart of the area on Olvera Street, though built in the 1870's is a later residence of a family noted in California since early times.

In 1860, a United States surveyor described Los Angeles as a group of one-story houses mostly "build of adobe or some burnt brick with very thick walls and flat roofs". By 1872, a change in Los Angeles was apparent. North of the Plaza it retained a style characteristically Mexican; south of that area it was a vigorous American city. Buildings built during this time were the Pelanconi House, Pico House, Merced Theatre, the old Plaza Firehouse, the Masonic Hall and the Garnier Building.

The City of Los Angeles in 1870 had 5,700 people, 110 saloons, and 4,000 dogs. The Plaza area had quantities representative of each. When reached by railroad in 1876, Los Angeles underwent a dramatic change from provincial center to city. Subsequent years raised the population from 102,479 in 1900 to 2,000,071 in 1953. By 1955 the population of the greater Los Angeles area had reached 5 million. During these times, the Plaza (Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic District) became even more cosmopolitan. No longer the geographical center of



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the city it continued for sometime, nevertheless, to exert strong influence. Additional structures were built, filling in gaps between those built earlier. The flat roofed, unpretentious one-story adobe huts of "Sonoran Town" gave way to solid brick warehouse type structures and business houses. Where, in 1872, fully one-half of the area's citizens were Spanish or Mexican, by 1890 the city was predominately American, with some Mexican-Americans, and Chinese. By the turn of the century, the Plaza area had deteriorated and became a semi-slum. In 1892, Olvera Street had become a disreputable alley, and much of the surrounding buildings had followed suit. The Lugo House became a Chinese store, rooming house and some say, an opium den before being torn down.

This was the scene when Mrs. Christine Sterling arrived in Los Angeles to head a group interested in cleaning up "skid Row" and preserving its historical background. Through her initiative, Olvera Street and the surrounding area gradually improved. The street itself becoming a Mexican marketing center bringing back some of the flavor of its pre-American past.

In 1953, the area was acquired by the County, City and State as Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park. Subsequent development of the area is discussed in section seven of the nomination form.

A historical resume on other structures included in the historic district nomination follows:

Plaza Area

An adequate record of the appearance of the Plaza is available from 1848 on from drawings and photographs. It was not laid out in circular form until the early 1870's. In the 1890's and later, a public market was developed around the Plaza, wagons loaded with produce being backed up to the edge of the circle. There have been various landscaping treatments; a statue of Filipe de Neve was placed in the center of the Plaza in 1931 by the Native Daughters of the Golden West. There will be continued effort to landscape this area in accordance with historical integrity.



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Buildings South of the Plaza

The Masonic Building:

This is the oldest structure in the Pueblo area south of the Plaza. It was the first lodge building in Los Angeles, the second meeting place of Los Angeles Lodge No. 42. The building was constructed in 1858 by the firm of Terry and Woodworth, designed for store space on the bottom floor and "a satisfactory room for Lodge purposes" on the second floor. To encourage construction, the Lodge loaned money at the rate of one and one-half percent per annum and paid rental of \$20 per month for the use of the Lodge room. Arthur Ellis, in a historical review of the Lodge, asserts that "Los Angeles Lodge No. 42 was the first American organization set up here subsequent to the government itself, and in truth the institution most firmly interwoven in the life and growth of Southern California". This building has been completely restored. Its upper floor is periodically used as a Masonic Hall.

The Pico Hotel:

Construction was begun on the Pico House on September 4, 1869 and completed June 19, 1870. Pio Pico had sold half of San Fernando Valley for \$115,000 to build the hotel. This was to be the finest hotel in the city and he chose the site on the corner of Main Street and the Plaza. This site had been originally granted to Jose Antonio Carillo (1821) and the Carillo Adobe was razed to make way for the hotel. Newspapers of the period carried full descriptions of the hotel, for a short time the pride of the city.

The building has not been altered basically though many minor changes have been made in interior arrangement. The ground floor originally contained the hotel office, a lobby, two dining rooms and two stores, one of which was occupied by the Wells Fargo Express Company. The second floor was composed of suites; there was also a public parlor. From the gallery around the interior court on this floor, there was a private entrance to the Merced Theatre, enabling the guests to reach the boxes and take their seats without the trouble of going out into the street or mingling with the crowd. The third floor was devoted exclusively to sleeping rooms. The furnishings for the hotel cost \$34,000. The total cost was \$82,000.

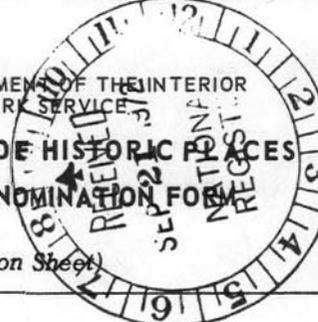
Although the hotel was the finest in Los Angeles, it had a very short period of prosperity: it was closed for over a year

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around 1879. The Pico House was soon to be victim of environmental deterioration and competition. Prior to its construction the Bella Union, the United States Hotel, and the Lafayette were hotels of distinction in Los Angeles. By 1880, there had been added the Nadeau, the St. Charles, the Natick, and the St. Elmo. Although Los Angeles served a large hinterland, a town of 11,000 could not support this many hostelryes. By 1880, Pico had lost the hotel; in 1892 the name was changed, for a decade or so, to the "National Hotel". In 1897, the building was leased by G. Pagliano and G. Berniatico, and in 1930 Pagliano purchased the building. The story of this building is intimately involved with that of its founder, the last Governor of California under Mexican rule. In some ways, it is a memorial to this early pioneer and political leader.

The Merced Theatre:

The first wooden frame building in Los Angeles was erected in 1851 on this site just south of Pico Hotel; it was used as a saloon and later as a Methodist Church. William Abbott started work on the theatre in June 1870 and it was opened December 30, 1870. The theatre was on the second floor with living accommodations for the Abbott family on the third floor. The ground floor was used for business: Barker Bros. once occupied this site (Barker Bros. were noted pioneer furniture dealers in Los Angeles.) On December 7, 1872, an organization meeting for a public library was held in the Merced Theatre, although the structure was never used as a library building.

Like the Pico Hotel, the Merced Theatre had a very short life as a successful venture. By 1890 it was no longer listed as a theatre. With the turn of the century, the upper floors of the Merced were transformed into cheap sleeping rooms; the building remaining in such use throughout the next half century. The Merced Theatre, now restored, will be reoccupied ultimately at least in part, as a theatre, the lower floor being converted to other commercial use.

The Garnier Building:

In 1890 Phillippe Garnier constructed a building specifically intended for use of Chinese renters. Garnier built only the exterior walls; the interior walls and arrangements were constructed by the Chinese lessees.

For some years the building was occupied by the importing firm of Sun Wing Wo; throughout this period the managers for

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the company in this building has been one family, Lew Tou Pew. Pew was manager until 1896; his son Lew Sen Lai was head of the business from 1896 until 1948. Later its management was taken over by Lew Yee Fong.

The Chinese Benevolent Society (Association), an organization which has been of great importance in the life of the Chinese in Los Angeles, had its headquarters on the second floor of this structure from 1900 until 1948. Subsequently the building was acquired and restored by the State. Arrangements for its new concession are under way.



Fire House:

The two-story brick building on the corner of Plaza and Los Angeles Streets was constructed in 1880, and from the middle of the 1880's until the late 1890's was occupied by Chemical Company No. 1 of the Los Angeles Fire Department. During that time, it was leased from the owner, Mrs. Bigelow, for \$50 per month. Following its use as a fire station, it was converted to other purposes, there having been sleeping rooms on the second floor and a restaurant and saloon on the ground floor. Subsequent to this, the building has been completely and authentically restored and serves today as a repository-exhibit of fire apparatus and equipment of the 1880's.

Sepulveda Building:

Built circa 1883-4 by Eloisa Martinez de Sepulveda for use as a residence-hotel-boarding house. One of the truly Victorian structures left in Los Angeles, it possesses elaborate iron grill work, a cupolo, and other features which identify it with late 19th Century Los Angeles. Both the Martinez and Sepulveda families were outstanding pioneers in Southern California.

Pelanconi Building:

This building was among the first brick structures built in Los Angeles circa 1852-3. Brick was manufactured of local clays by Jesse Hunter, brickmaker, who was the first to ply his trade in Los Angeles. The Pelanconis were an Italian family originating on the Island of Malta. In its early days, the upper floor was used as a residence, the lower (basement) as a winery. Subsequently it became a warehouse for Chinese merchants. Today its basement it used as a restaurant specializing in Mexican dishes.

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Other Buildings on Sanchez Street:

These buildings were constructed in 1890 or later and were used by Chinese for shops, stores and rooming houses. Today these buildings are used as official offices of the Pueblo de Los Angeles Commission and by the Department of Parks and Recreation.



Missing Core Documentation

Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
Los Angeles Plaza Historic District	Los Angeles, CA	72000231

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form [Item 8, Page 1]

Photographs

USGS Map

















LA

LUZ

DEL

DIA

MEATS

GROCERY

674

H. L. A.
THEATER
MERCEDES

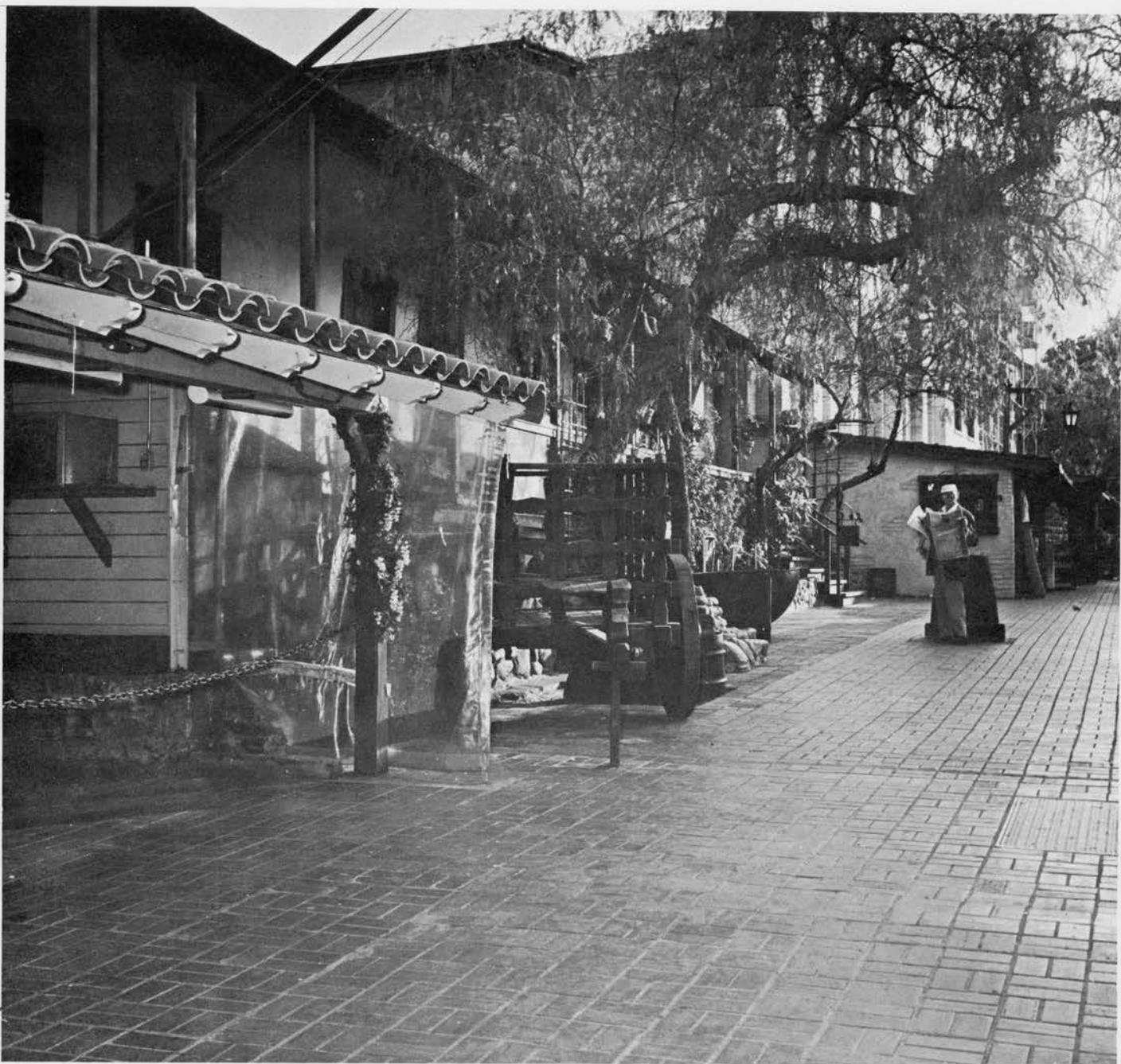
SECURITY PACIFIC
NATIONAL BANK





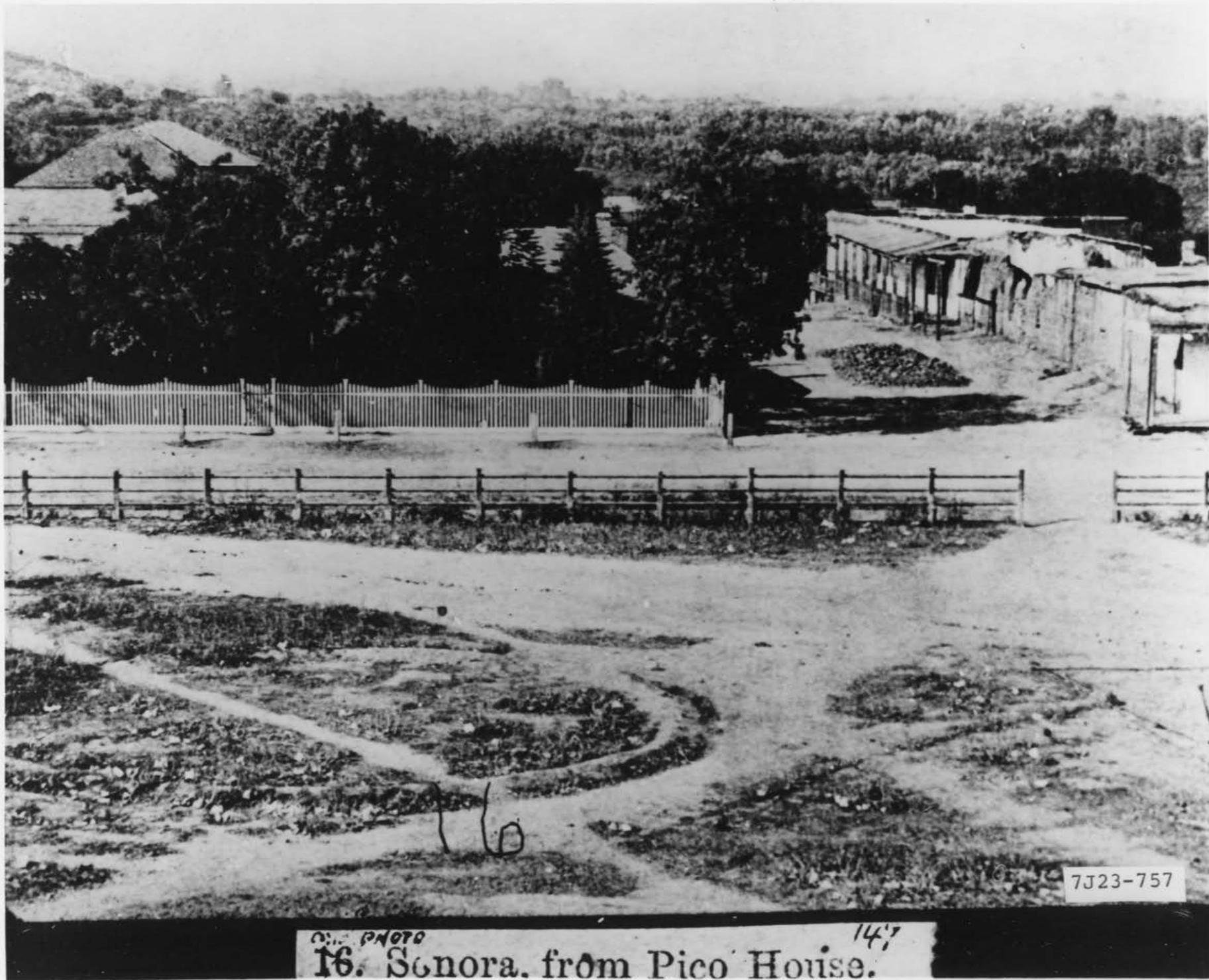
NORTH 

EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES
STATE HISTORIC PARK



AVILA ADOBE





7J23-757

OLD PHOTO

16. Senora. from Pico House.

147







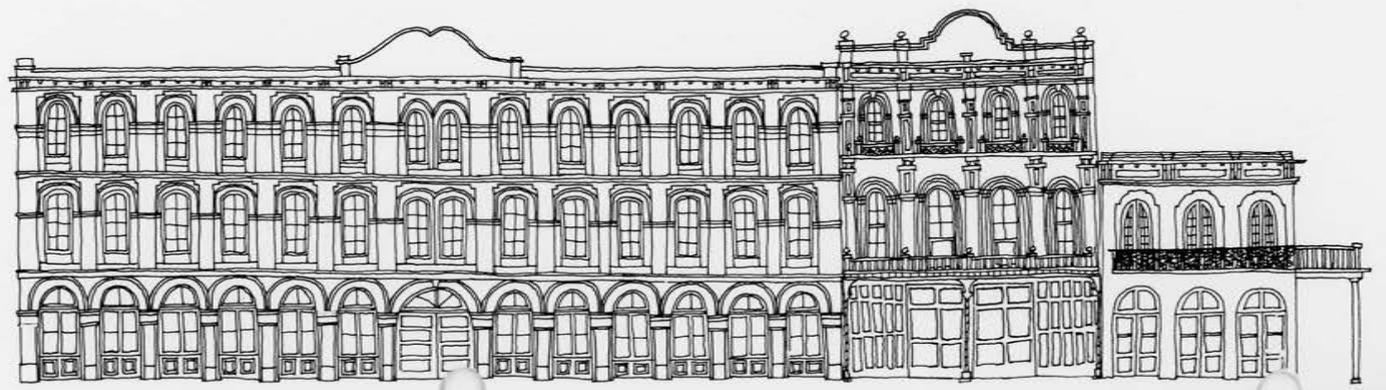
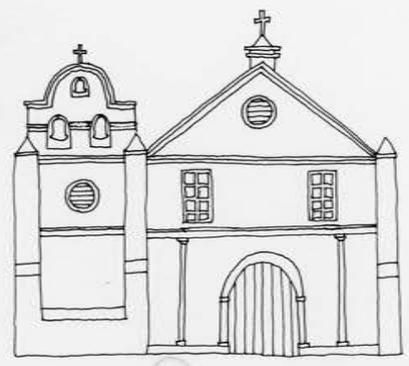
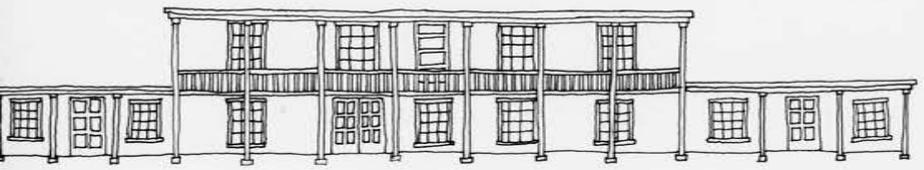
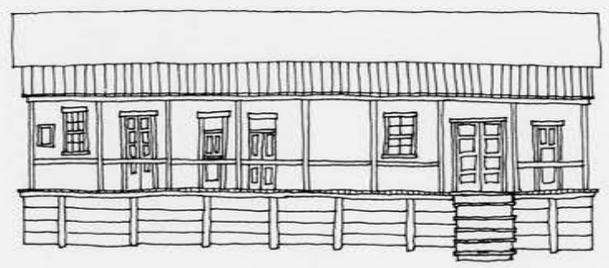
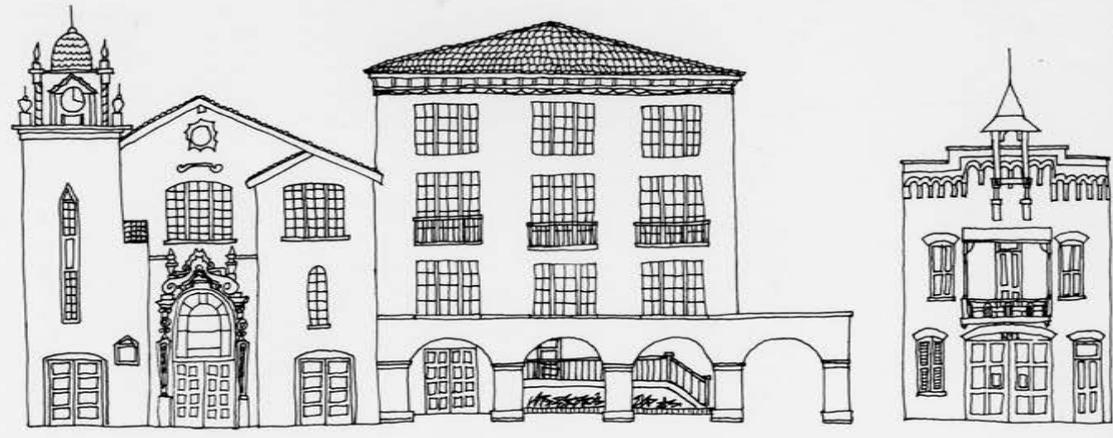


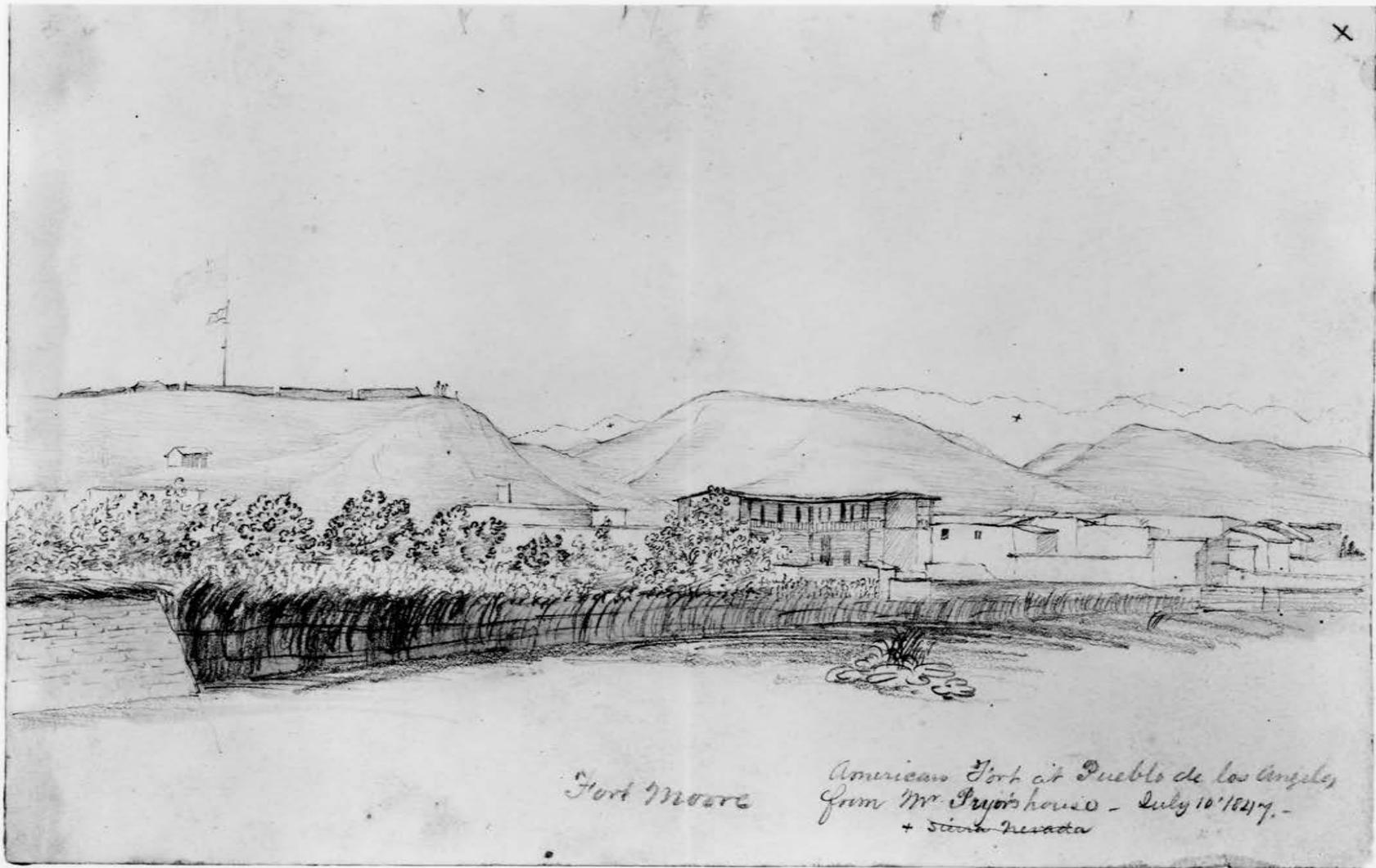
7J23-758



THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES WAS RAISED HERE ON JULY 4, 1847
BY UNITED STATES TROOPS AT THE FIRST INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION IN LOS ANGELES
THE UNITED STATES 1st DRAGOONS WHO FOUGHT AT SAN JASUAL
THE NEW YORK VOLUNTEERS WHO CAME BY SEA
THE HOSBORN BATTALION (FIRST INFANTRY OF THE SPANISH ARMY) WHO FIGHT AGAINST INDEPENDENT MEXICO IN 1847

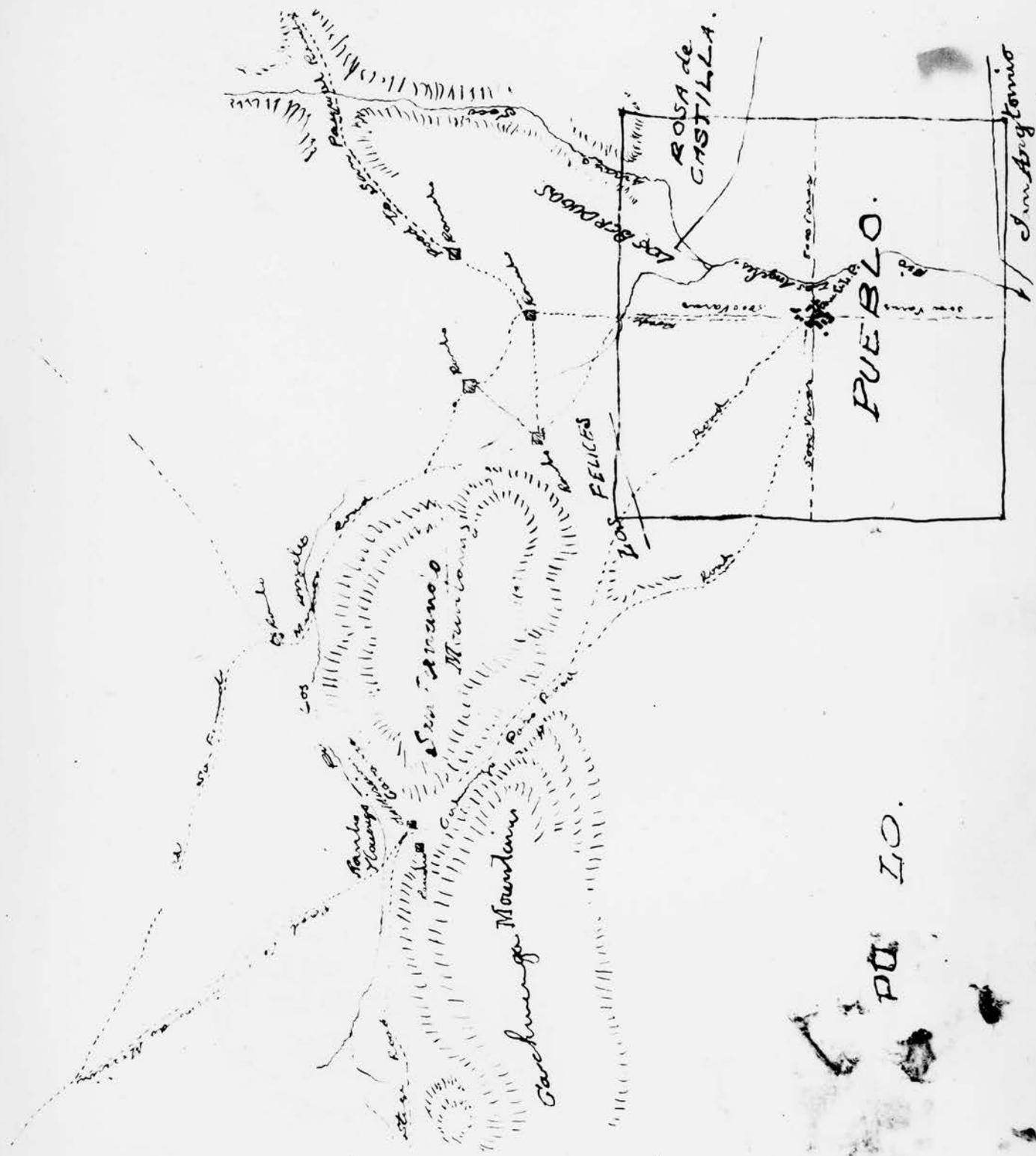
WALL OF FAME
THE WALL OF FAME IS A WALL OF HONOR AND PRIDE IN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES





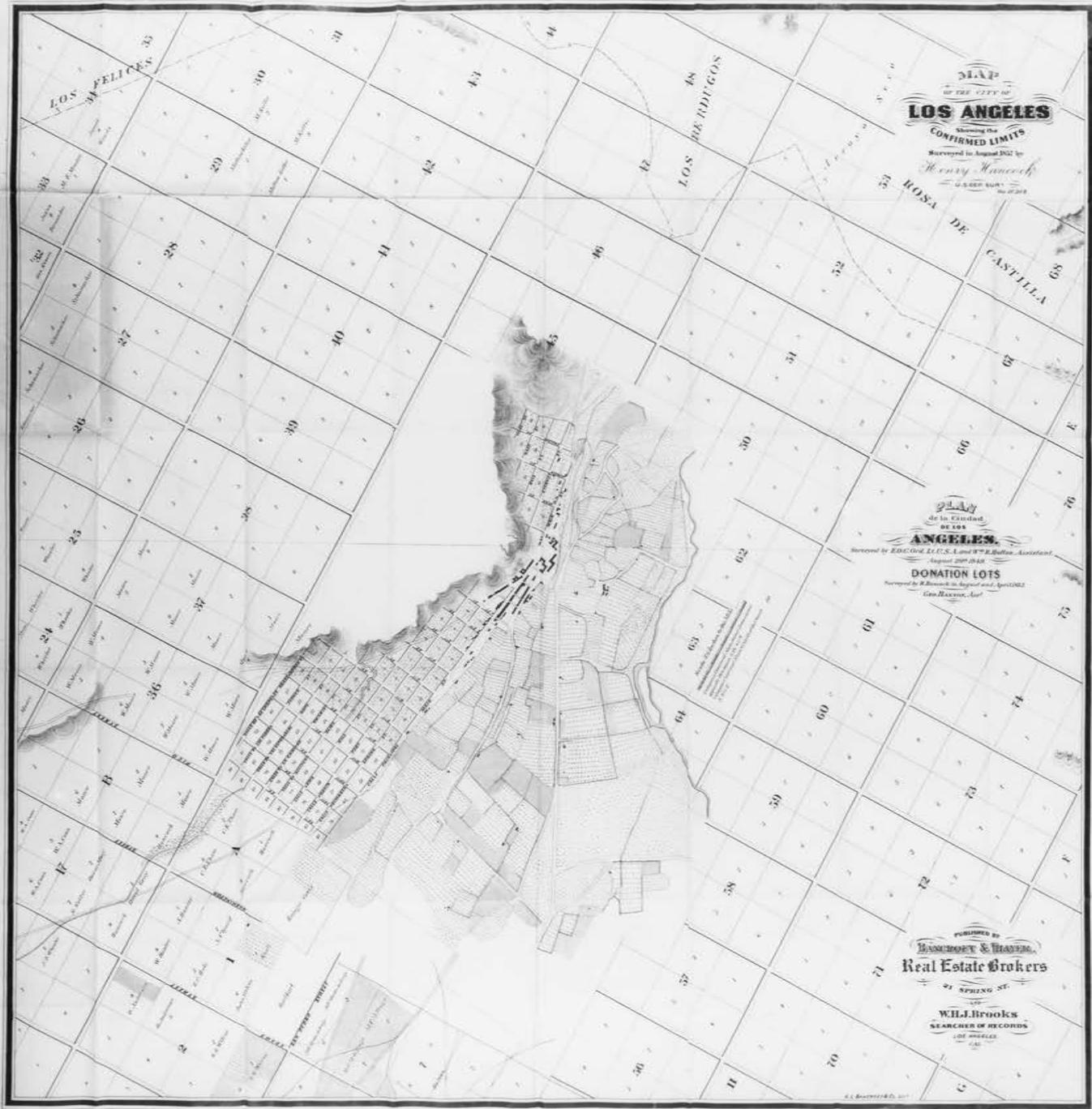
Fort Moore

American Fort at Pueblo de los Angeles,
from Mr. Pujos house - July 10th 1827. -
+ Santa Fe



PU IO.

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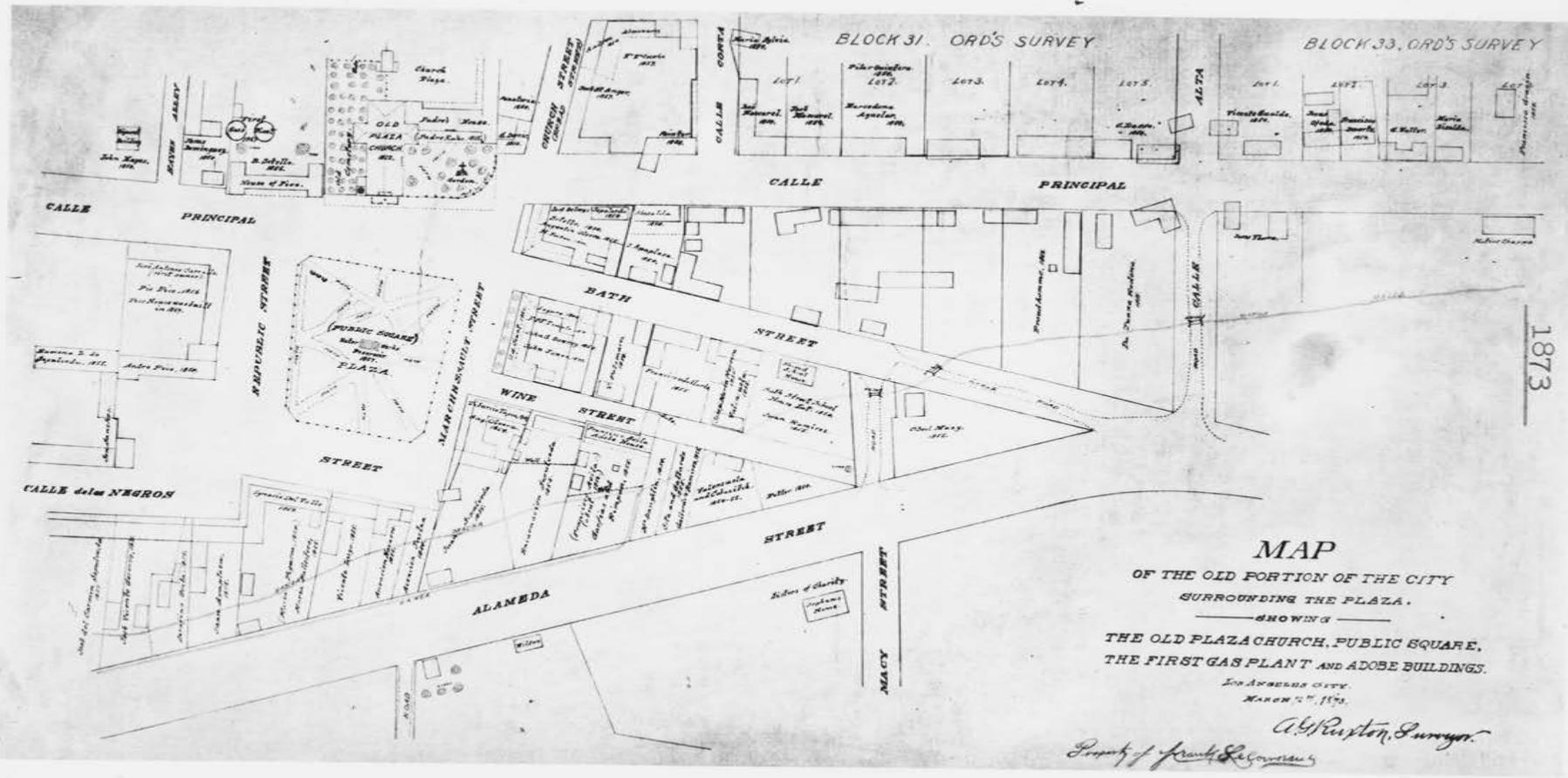


MAP
 OF THE CITY OF
LOS ANGELES
 SHOWING THE
 CONFIRMED LIMITS
 Surveyed to Actual POS by
Henry Hancock
 U.S. SURVYOR
 1857

PLAN
 OF THE CITIES
 OF LOS
ANGELES.
 Surveyed by E.D.C. De L. U.S. Land W. E. Butler, Assistant
 August 20th 1848
DONATION LOTS
 Surveyed by E. Hancock, the Agent and Specialist
 Geo. Hancock, Ass't

PUBLISHED BY
BANCROFT & THAYER
 Real Estate Brokers
 117 1/2 SPRING ST.
 W.H. Brooks
 SEARCHER OF RECORDS
 LOS ANGELES
 CALIF.

1857



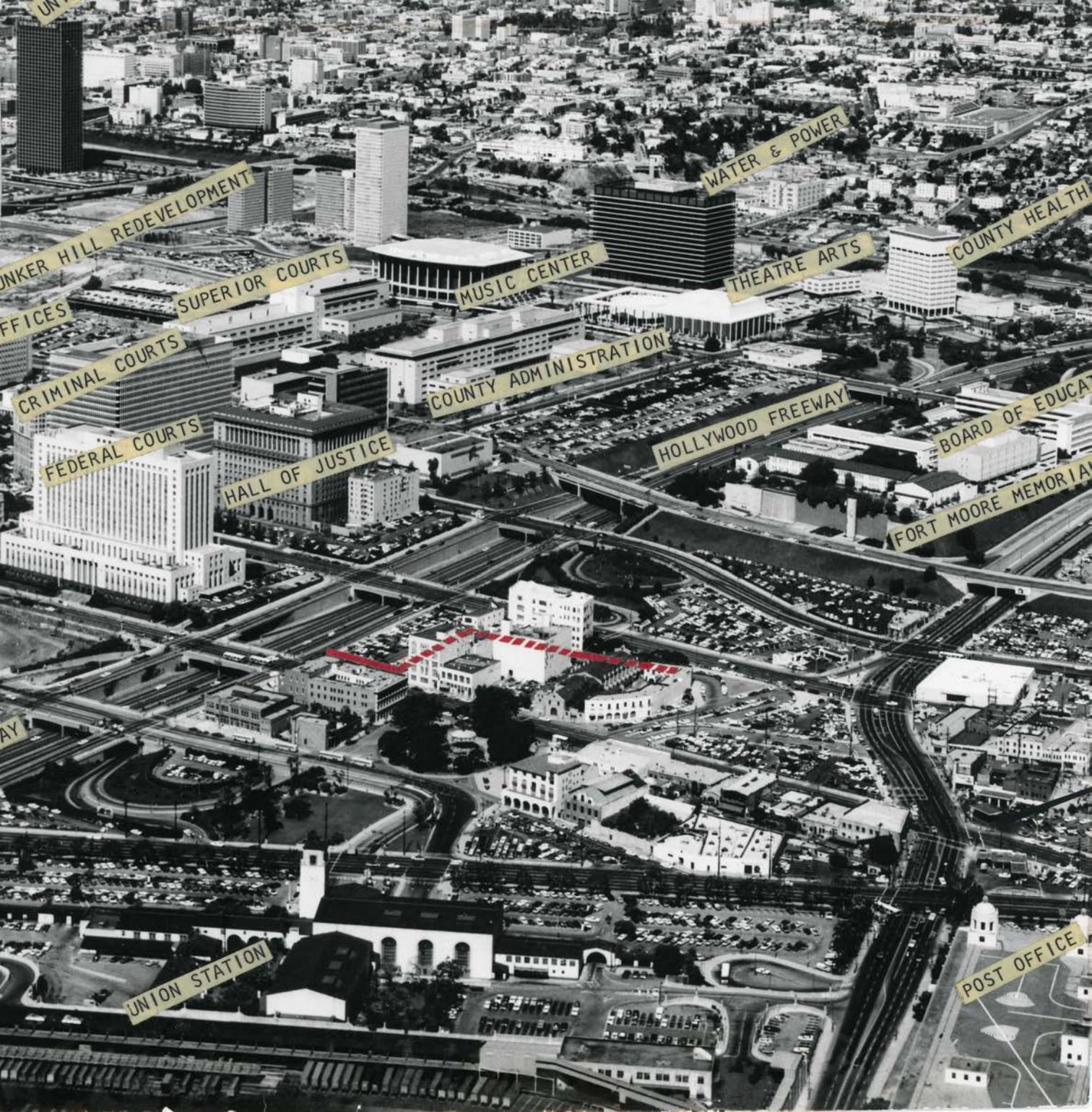
1873

MAP
 OF THE OLD PORTION OF THE CITY
 SURROUNDING THE PLAZA.
 SHOWING
 THE OLD PLAZA CHURCH, PUBLIC SQUARE,
 THE FIRST GAS PLANT AND ADOBE BUILDINGS.
 LOS ANGELES CITY.
 MARCH 27th 1873.

A. H. Weston, Surveyor.
 Property of *Frank S. Johnson*

PLAZA TODAY (At right)





UN
DUNKER HILL REDEVELOPMENT

OFFICES

SUPERIOR COURTS

CRIMINAL COURTS

FEDERAL COURTS

HALL OF JUSTICE

MUSIC CENTER

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

WATER & POWER

THEATRE ARTS

COUNTY HEALTH

HOLLYWOOD FREEWAY

BOARD OF EDUCATION

FORT MOORE MEMORIAL

AY

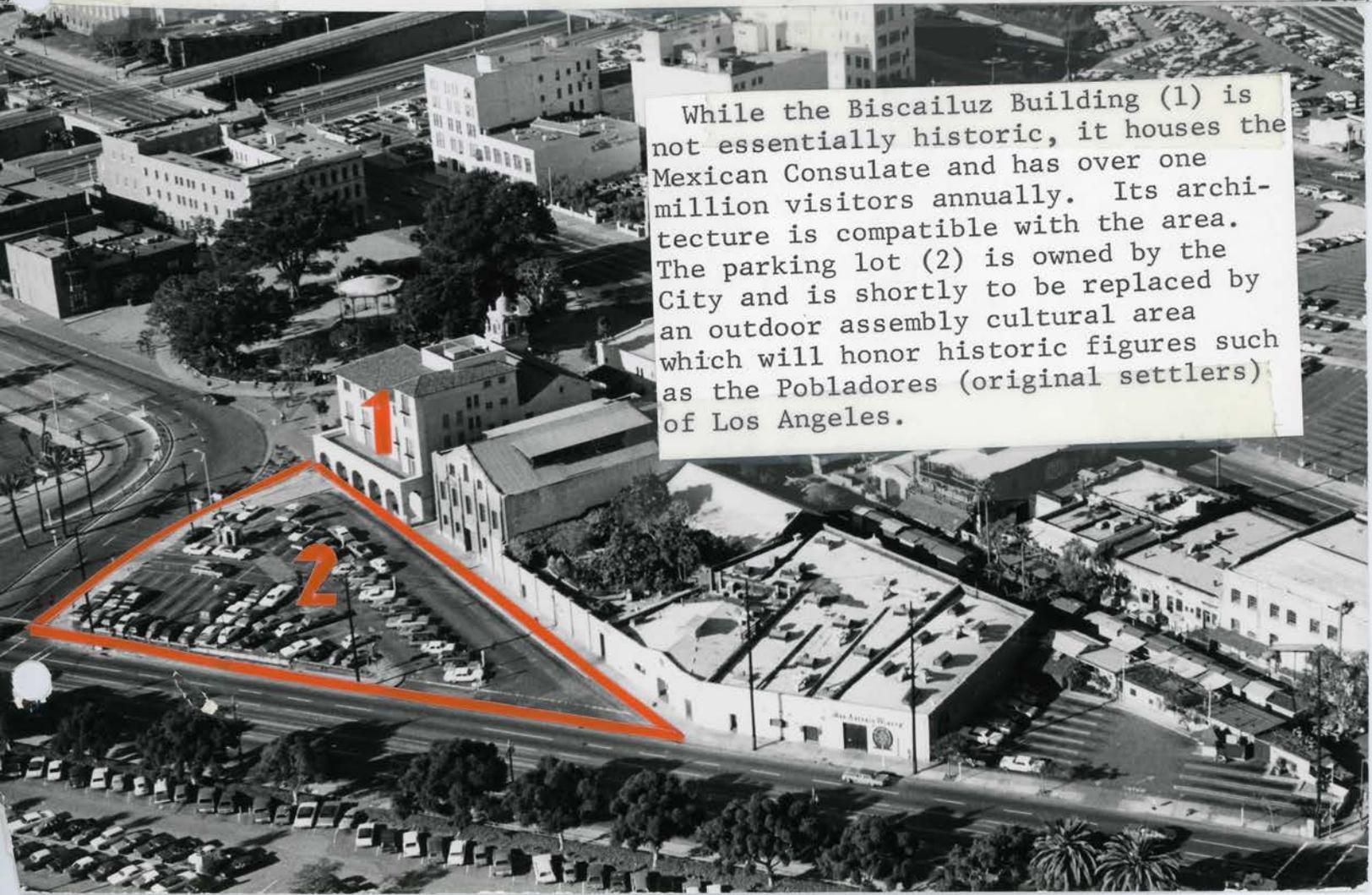
UNION STATION

POST OFFICE



El Pueblo de Los Angeles, outlined in red, lies close to the heart of downtown Los Angeles and the Civic Center, a Central District served on a frequent and continuous basis by a fleet of low-fare mini-busses.

Boundaries don't match USGS 25 11/3/51



While the Biscailuz Building (1) is not essentially historic, it houses the Mexican Consulate and has over one million visitors annually. Its architecture is compatible with the area. The parking lot (2) is owned by the City and is shortly to be replaced by an outdoor assembly cultural area which will honor historic figures such as the Pobladores (original settlers) of Los Angeles.



LOS ANGELES - Plaza church previous to 1869, showing fence around the entrance

1. Second Church, built in 1821-1822.

2. Horacio Penelon's Studio in 1865.

3. Residence of Ex mayor José Mascareñal

4. Catholic Cemetery, founded in 1800.

5. Dept. Store, T.P. Campbell & Tom Reed.

6. Residence of T.P. Campbell

7. First Public School House.

8. Built in 1844, by Captain Siquero.

9. Headquarters of Commodore Stockton in 1846.

10. Sisters of Charity's Convent.

11. Built in 1842, by Don Tiburcio Tejada, later known as Olvera's Home.

12. Water-works, built in 1857.

13. Second Plaza

14. Home of Don Romulo Pico

15. Property of Don Pio Pico.

16. First Cemetery in early Pueblo days.

17. Jews, first cemetery.

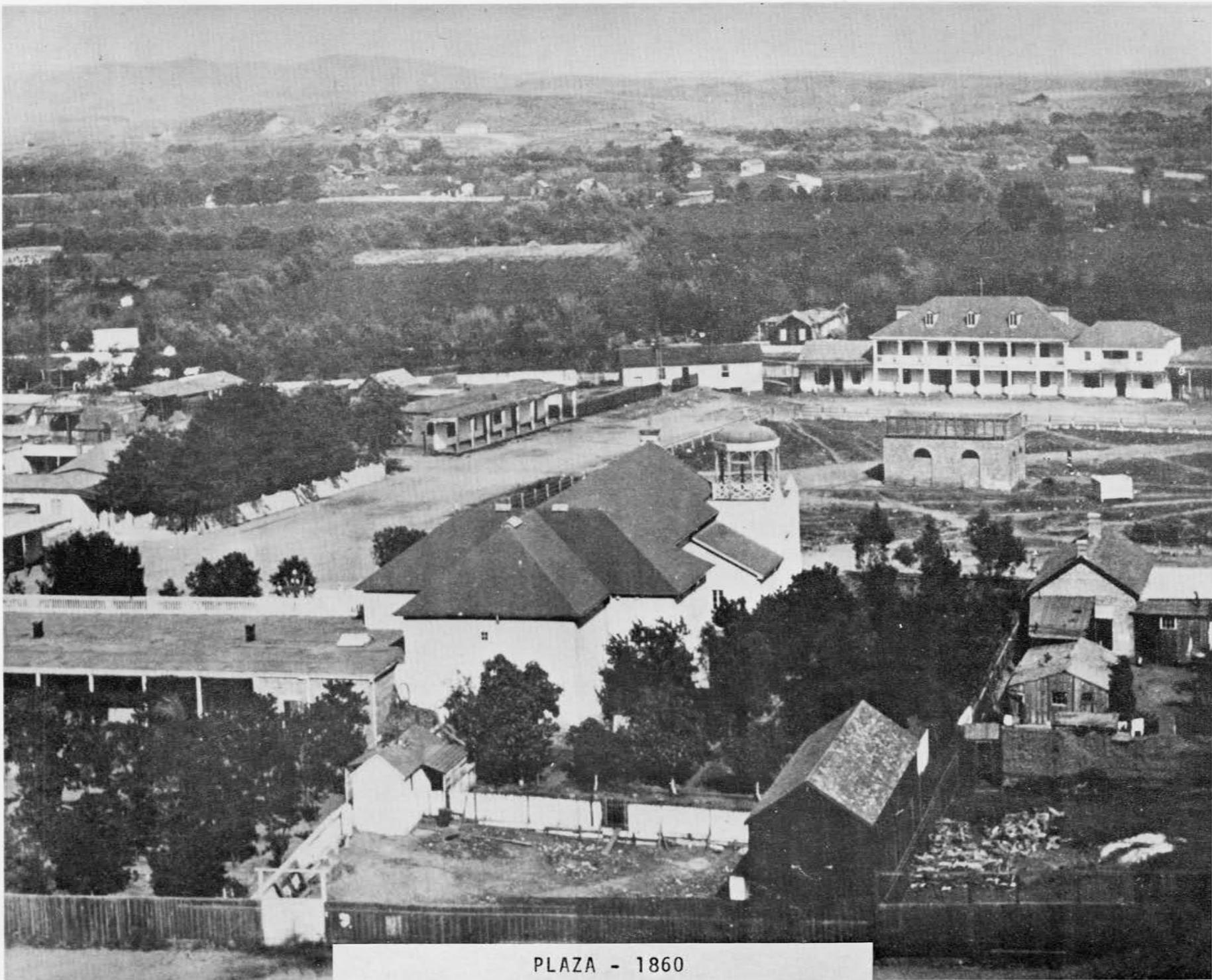
18. Main St. now North Main St.

19. Street of the Mairs, changed to North Main St, changed to San Fernando St. now North Spring St.

20. Bath St, now North Main St.



Pico House

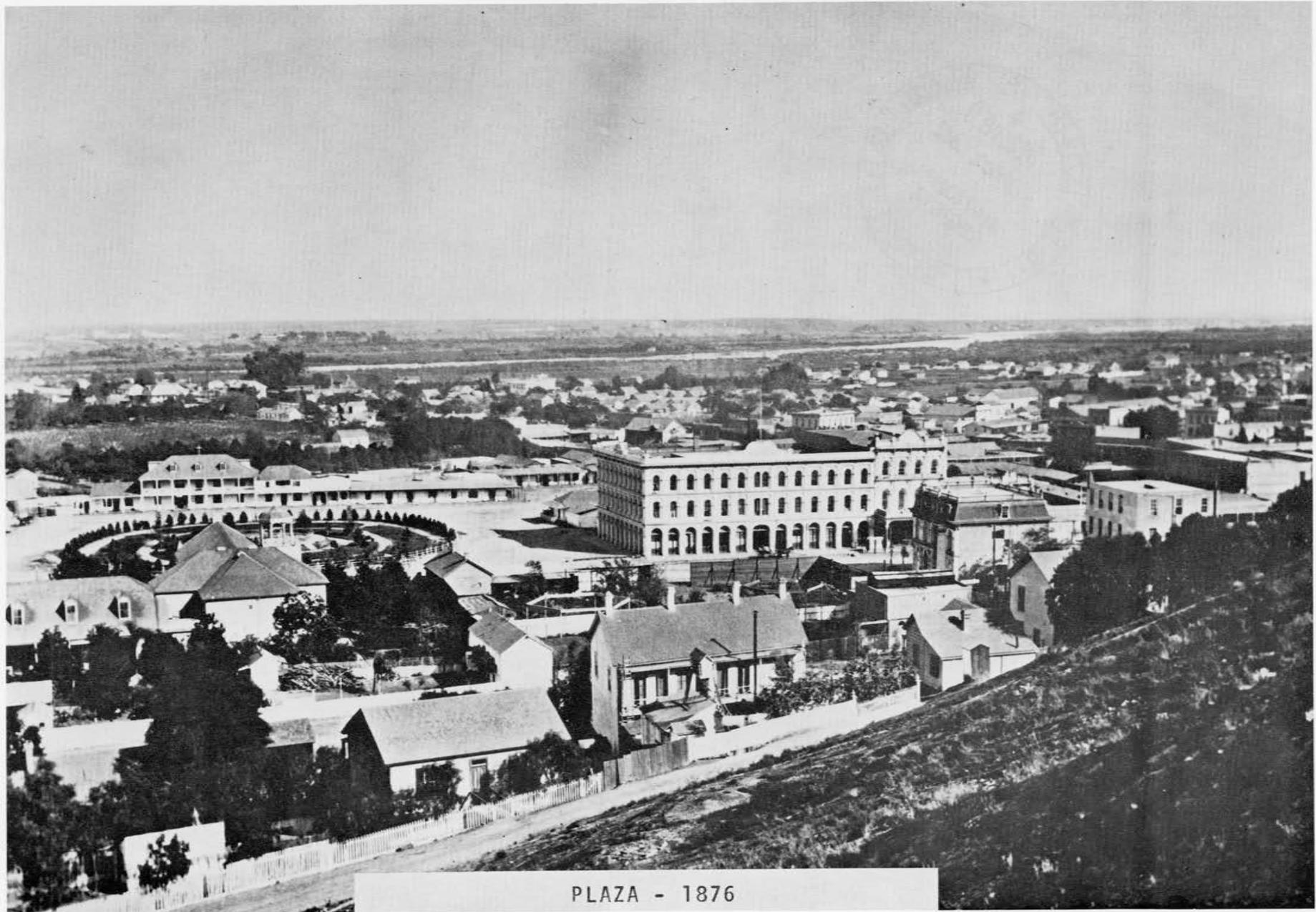


PLAZA - 1860

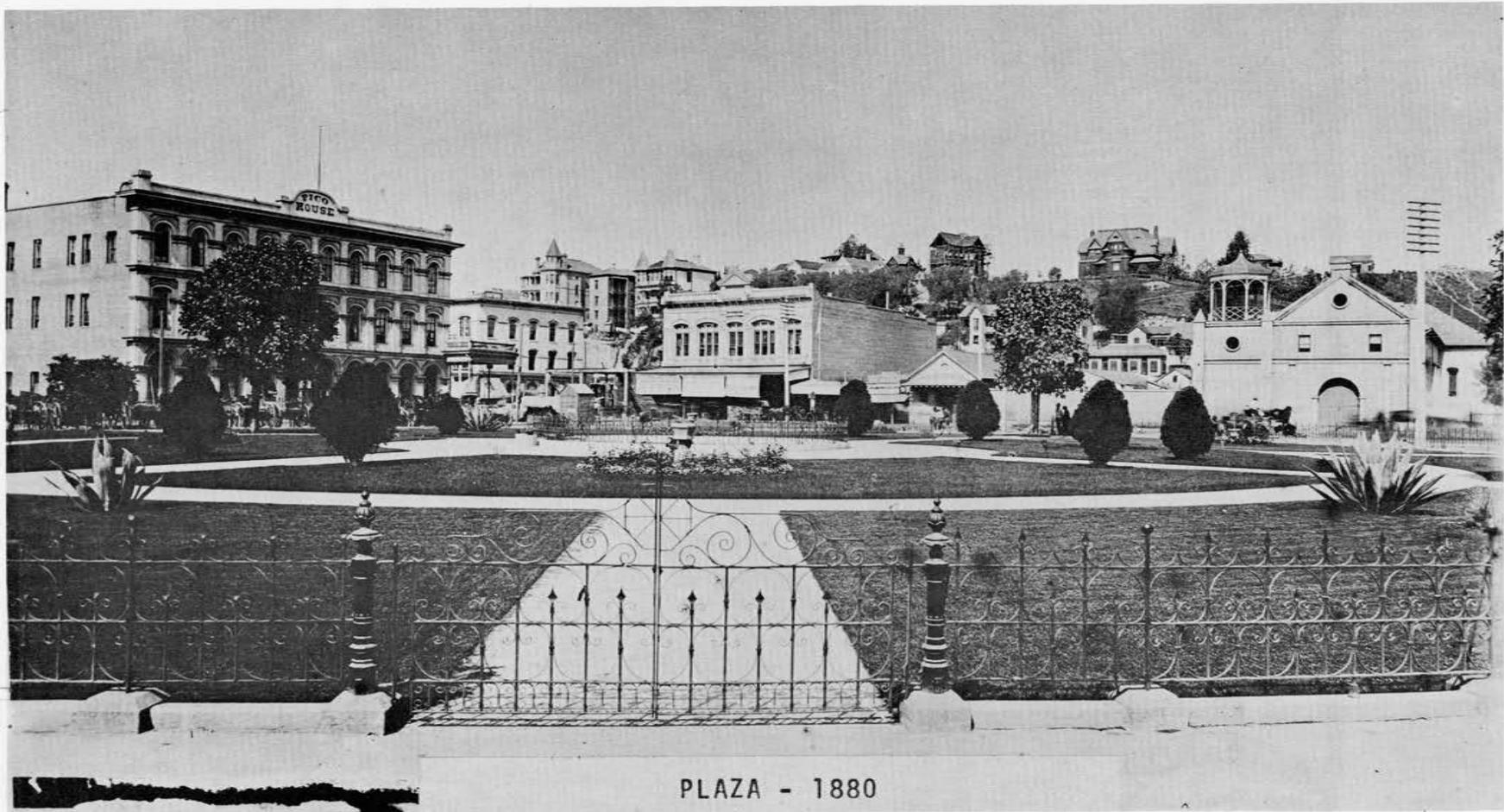


PLAZA - 1857

172



PLAZA - 1876



PLAZA - 1880



Handwritten signature or initials.



PLAZA
1890



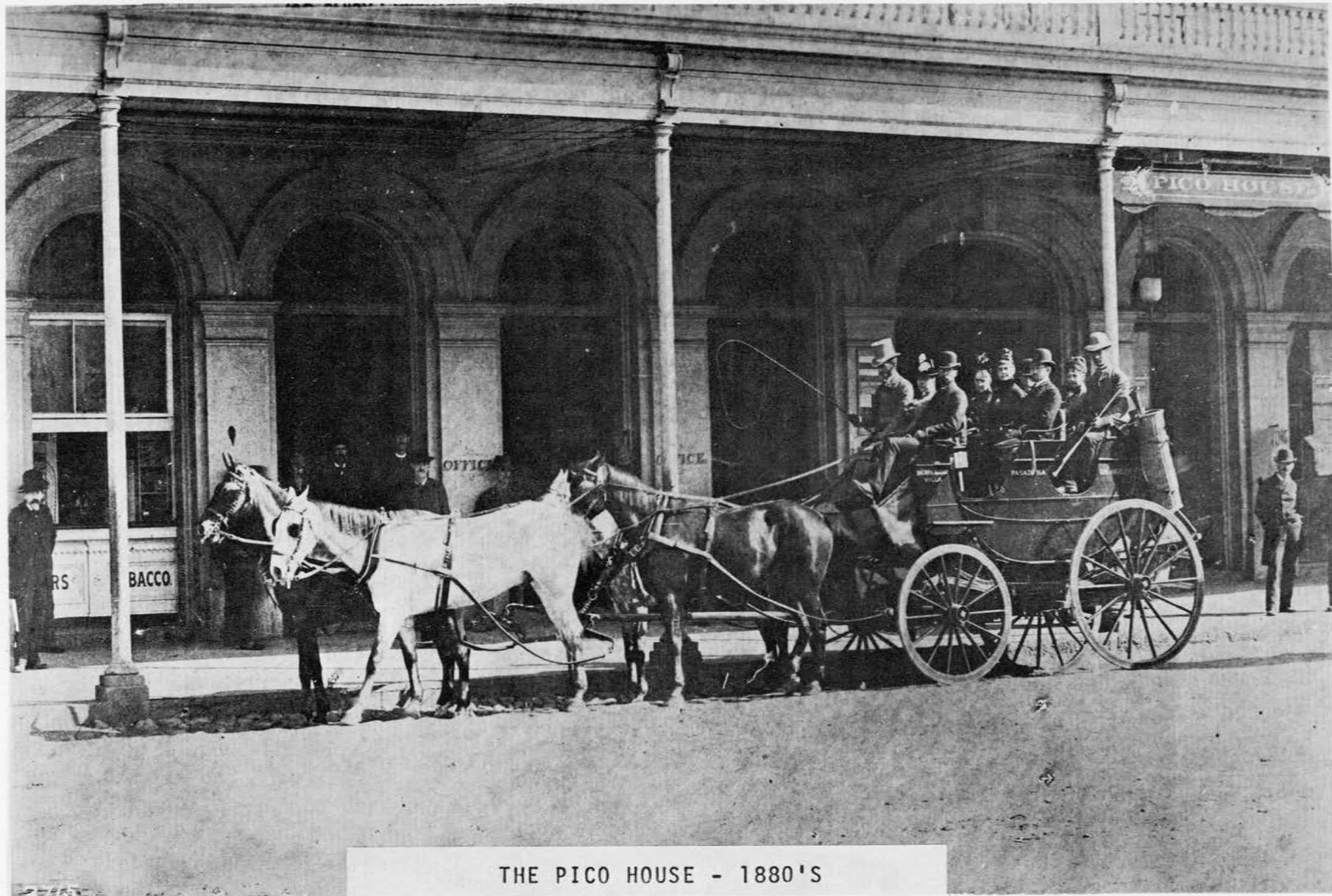
CCP

PLAZA CHURCH - 1885

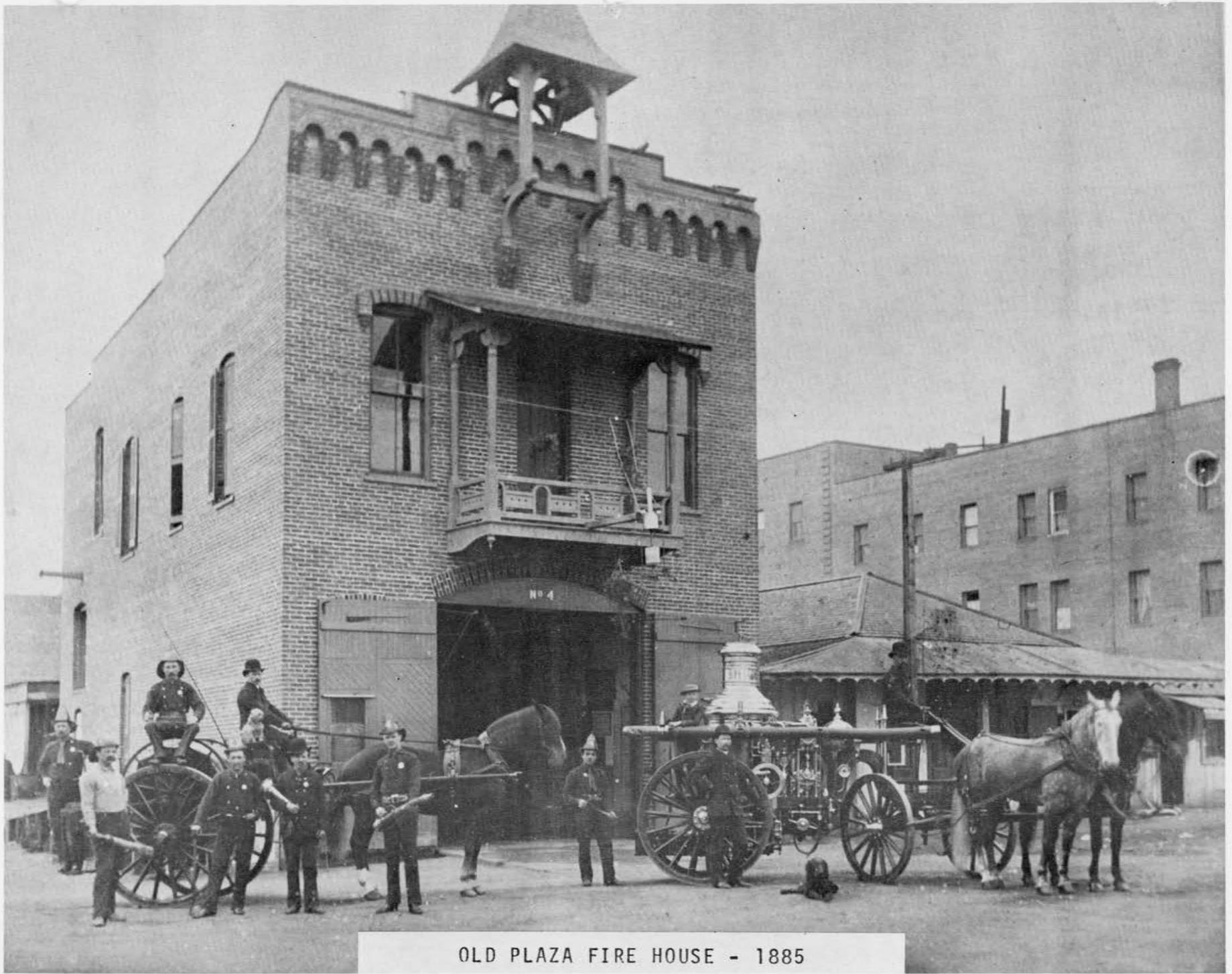


THE PICO HOUSE - 1870

S CAL 1870



THE PICO HOUSE - 1880'S



OLD PLAZA FIRE HOUSE - 1885



AVILA ADOBE - 1920's



PELANCONI HOUSE - OLVERA STREET - 1925









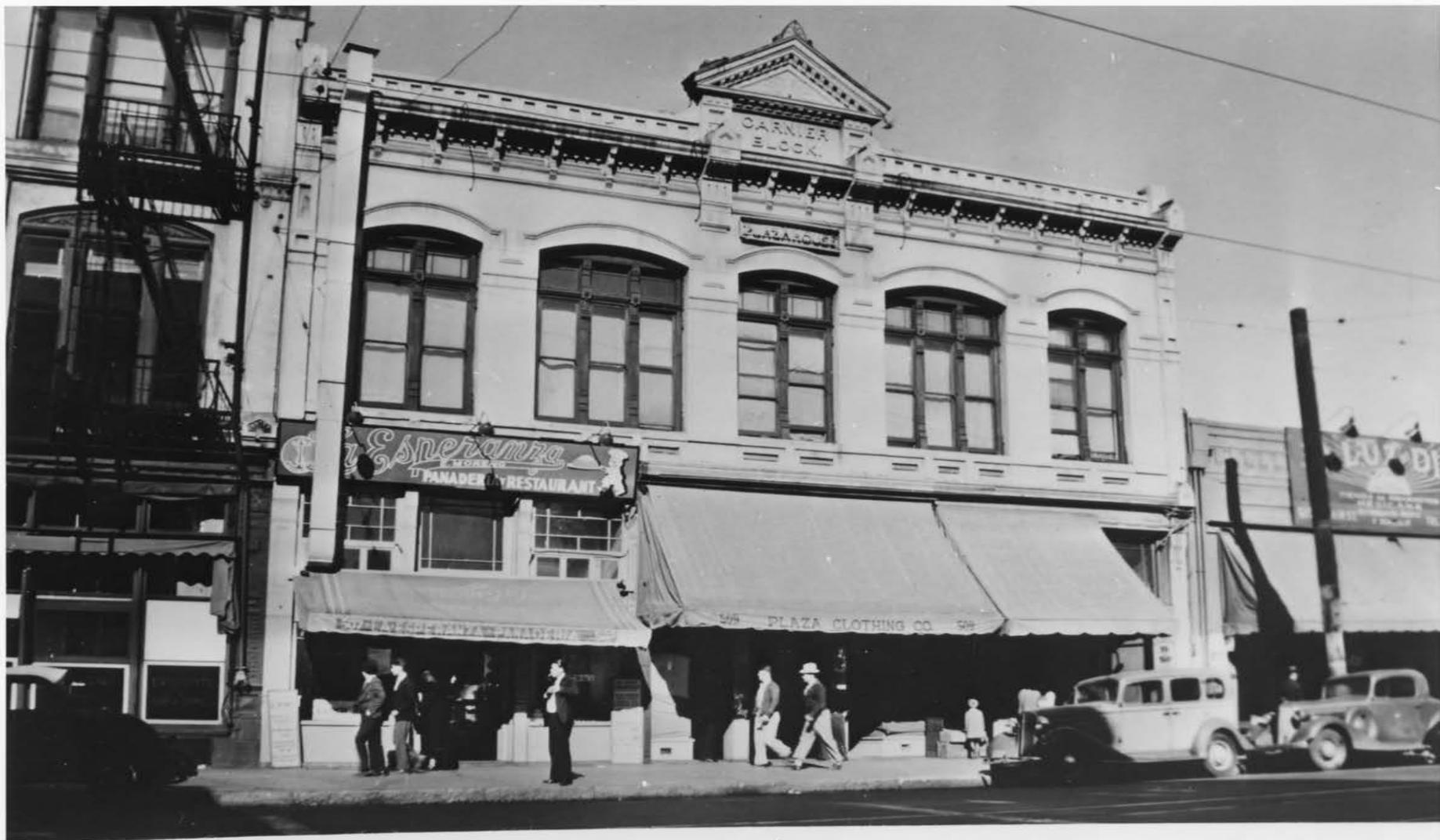


1885
BRUNSWIG
BUILDING

BRUNSWIG DRUG CO.









BISCAILUZ BUILDING
125









LA PLAZA
IGLESIA METODISTA

DOMINGOS
SERVICIOS

ORAR Escuela Dominical

DE LA English Worship Service

DOAN, Culto De Prostracion

SERMON

LA SANTA COMUNION

8:15 7:00 PM - Cantos Breves

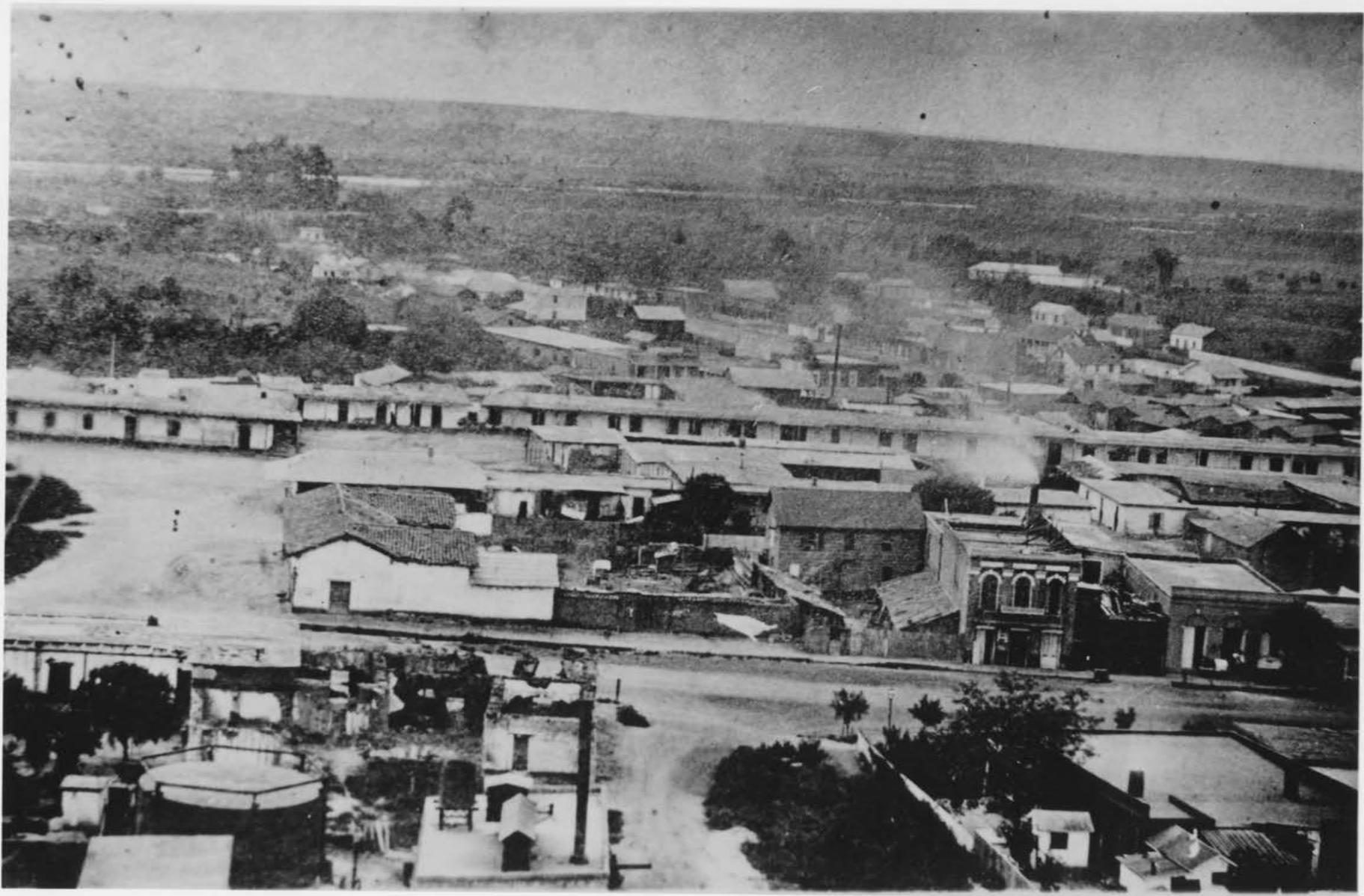
DOOS BIENVENIDOS

MINISTRO: REV. RALPH A. GARDNER

TEL. 828-5773 256.3055

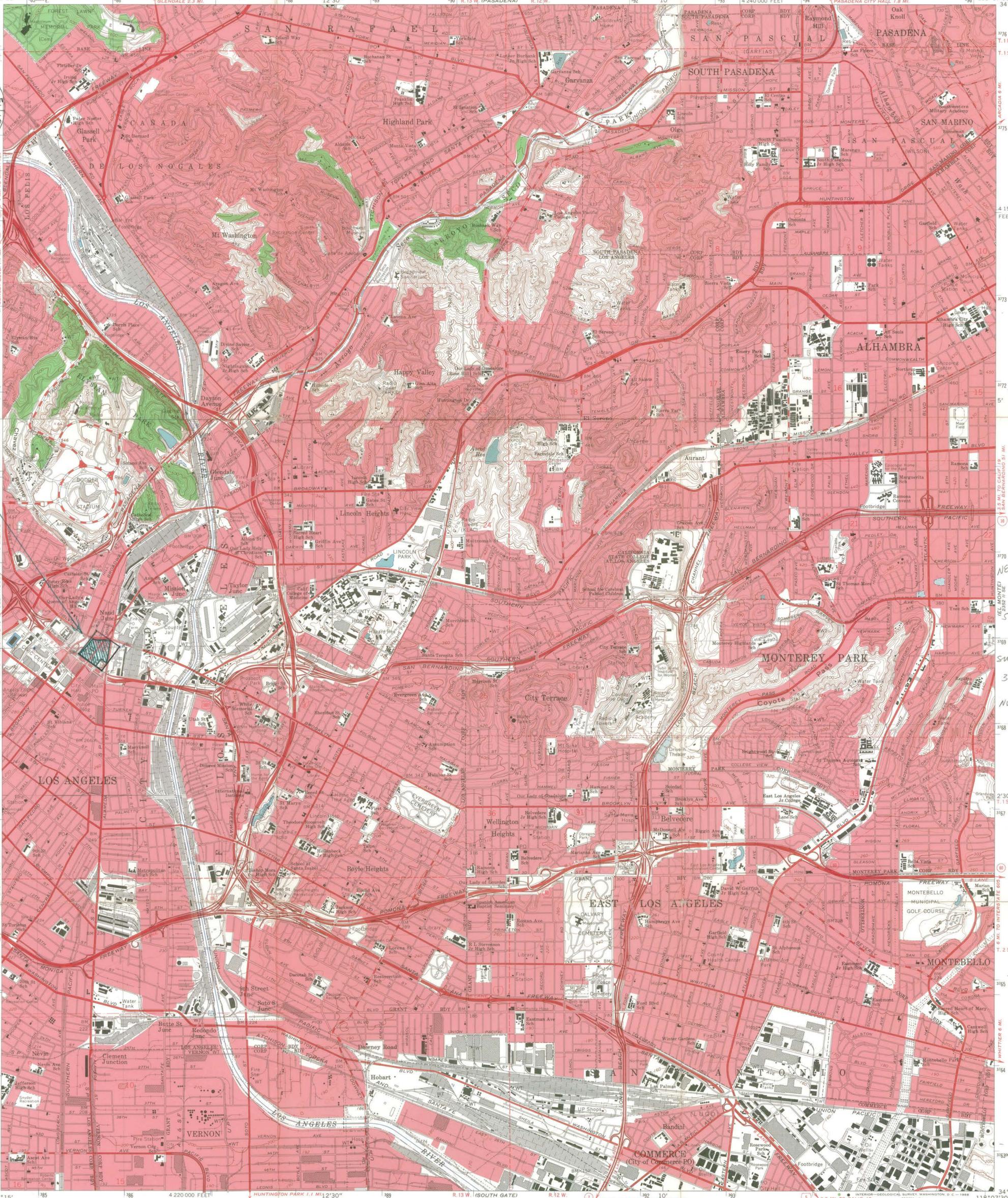






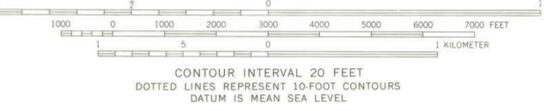
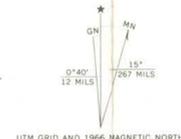


LAT.
COR.
NW 34° 03' 32"
NE 34° 03' 26"
SE 34° 03' 17"
SW 34° 03' 23"
LONG.
NW 118° 14' 20"
NE 118° 14' 08"
SE 118° 14' 16"
SW 118° 14' 21"



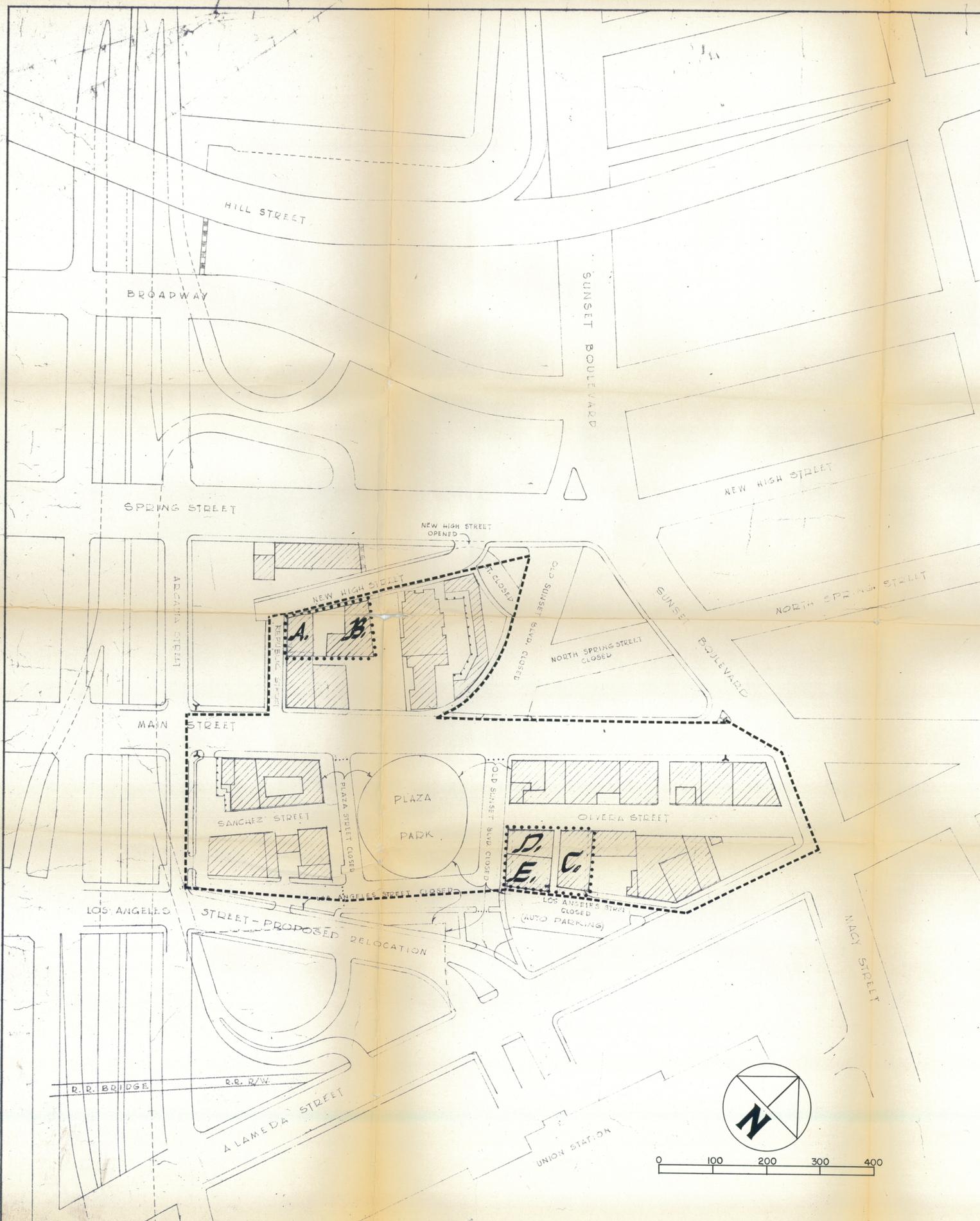
NE 11/386000
3769000
SE 11/385790
3768720
SW 11/385520
3768930
NW 11/385730
3769190
60

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Los Angeles City and County
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966
Supersedes map surveyed 1923-25, revised 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 7
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 11, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
A portion of the south half of this map lies within a subsidence area
Vertical control based on the latest available adjustment



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
N3400-W11807.5/7.5
1966
AMS 2352 II SW-SERIES Y895



Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Monument

REVISED BOUNDARY SEPT. 21, 1972	SCHEME 2
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LEGEND

EXISTING BUILDINGS

EXISTING STREET LINES

REVISED HISTORIC MONUMENT BOUNDARY LINE

EXCLUSIONS:

EXISTING BUILDINGS A to E INCLUSIVE, ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE MONUMENT AREA AS THEY LACK HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, AND ARE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL AND/OR RE-DEVELOPMENT.

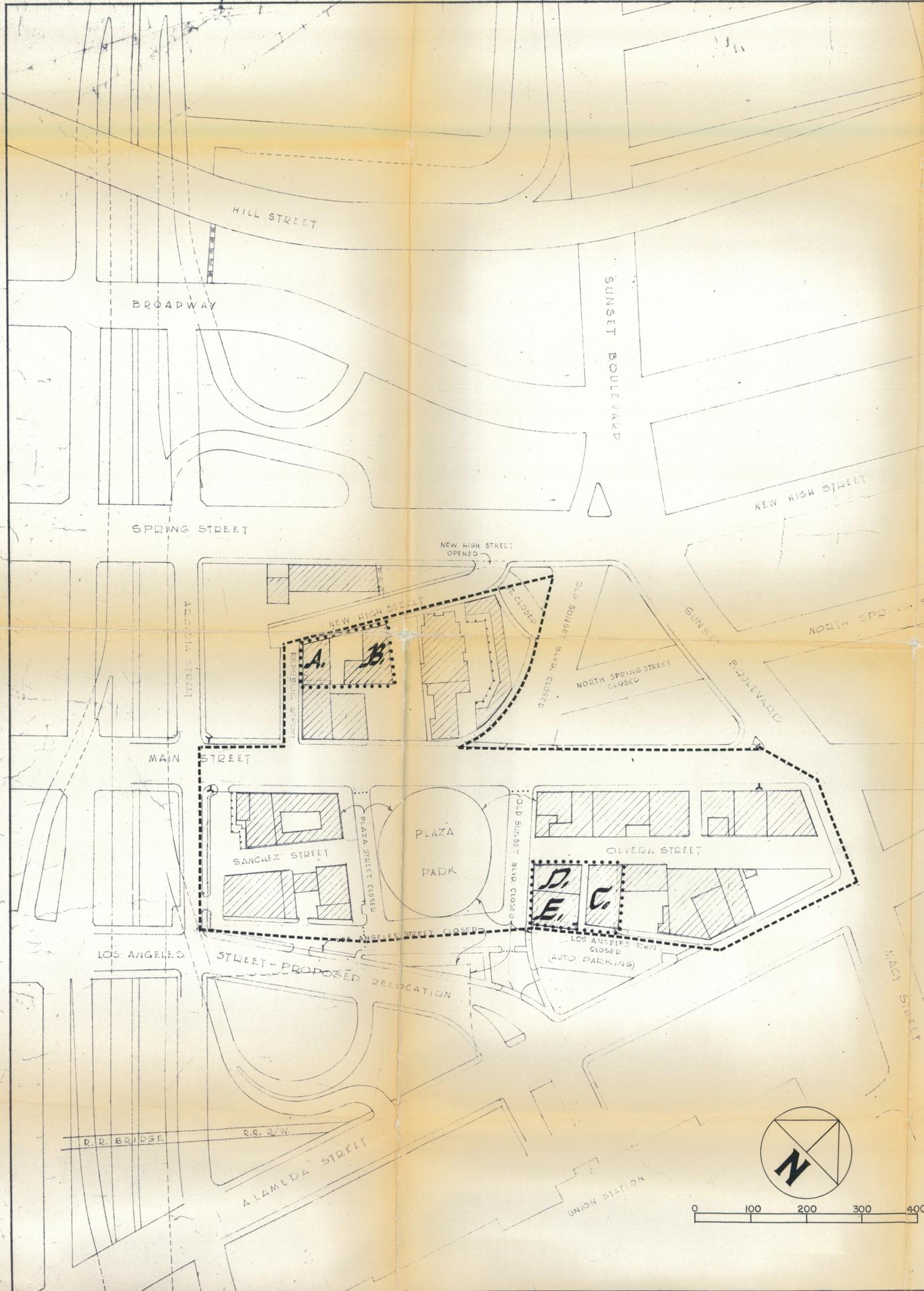
A. WESTERLY ADDITION (THREE STORIES) TO THE ORIGINAL BRUNSWICK BUILDING ADDRESS: 501 N. MAIN ST.

B. FORMER SUPERIOR COURTS BUILDING (FIVE STORIES) ADDRESS: 510 NEW HIGH STREET.

C. FORMER M.T.A. POWER GENERATING STATION. ADDRESS: 10 OLVERA STREET.

D. LOS ANGELES PLAZA METHODIST CHURCH. (ONE STORY WITH BALCONY; BASEMENT). ADDRESS: 115 SUNSET BOULEVARD.

E. BISCAILUZ BUILDING (FOUR STORIES; BASEMENT.) ADDRESS: 125 SUNSET BOULEVARD.



Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Monument

REVISED BOUNDARY SEPT. 21, 1972	SCHEME 2
------------------------------------	----------

LEGEND

EXISTING BUILDINGS

EXISTING STREET LINES

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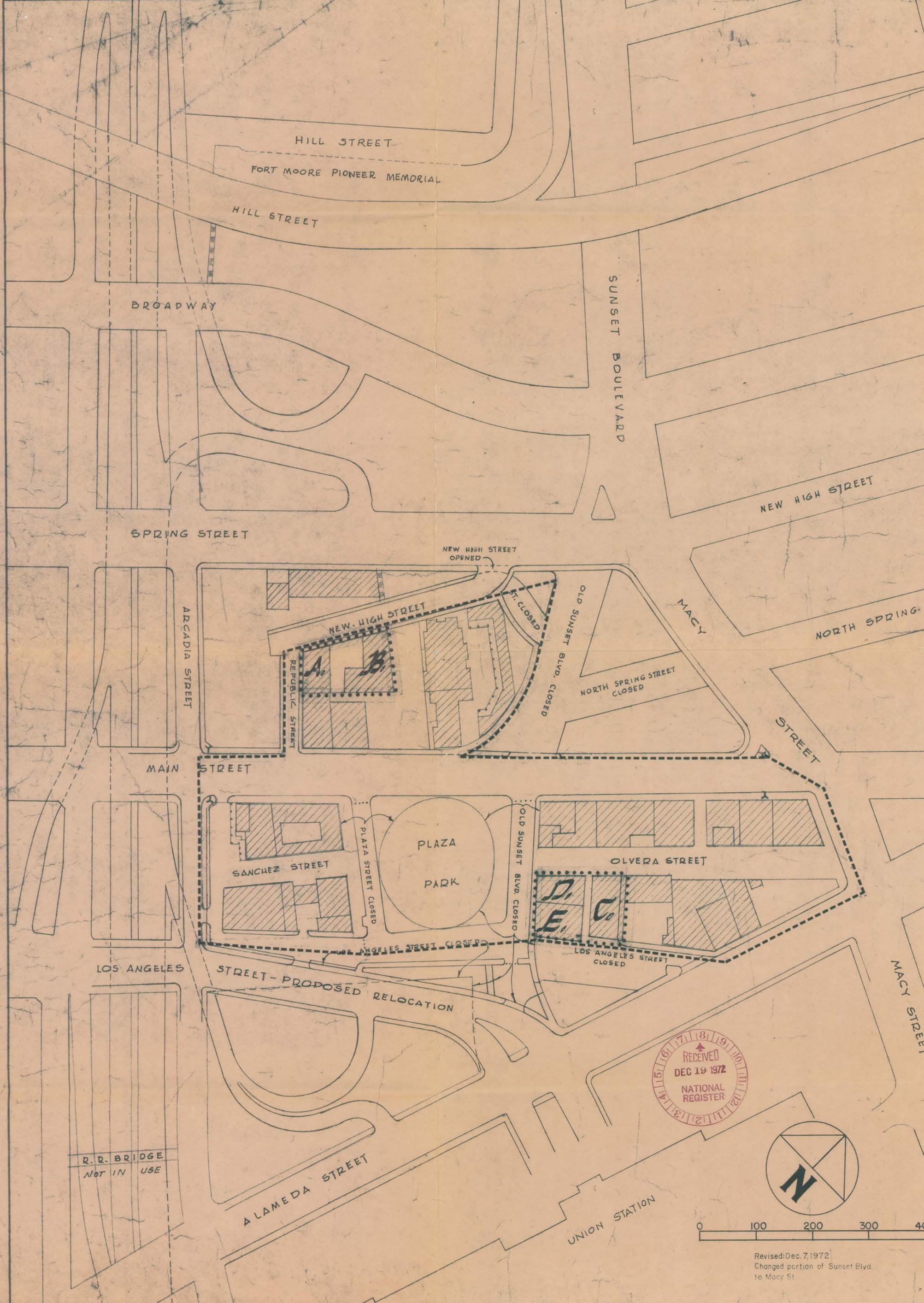
A. WESTERLY ADDITION (THREE STORIES) TO THE ORIGINAL BRUNSWICK BUILDING ADDRESS: 501 N. MAIN ST.

B. FORMER SUPERIOR COURTS BUILDING (FIVE STORIES) ADDRESS: 510 NEW HIGH STREET.

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E. BISCAILUZ BUILDING (FOUR STORIES; BASEMENT.) ADDRESS: 125 SUNSET BOULEVARD.



HILL STREET

FORT MOORE PIONEER MEMORIAL

HILL STREET

BROADWAY

SUNSET BOULEVARD

SPRING STREET

NEW HIGH STREET

NEW HIGH STREET OPENED

NEW HIGH STREET

ARCADIA STREET

REPUBLIC STREET

ST. CLOSED

OLD SUNSET BLVD. CLOSED

MACY

NORTH SPRING STREET

NORTH SPRING STREET CLOSED

MAIN STREET

STREET

PLAZA PARK

SANCHEZ STREET

PLAZA STREET CLOSED

OLD SUNSET BLVD. CLOSED

OLVERA STREET

D, E, C

LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES STREET CLOSED

LOS ANGELES STREET CLOSED

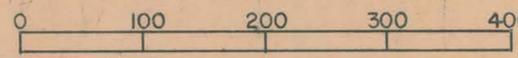
STREET - PROPOSED RELOCATION

MACY STREET

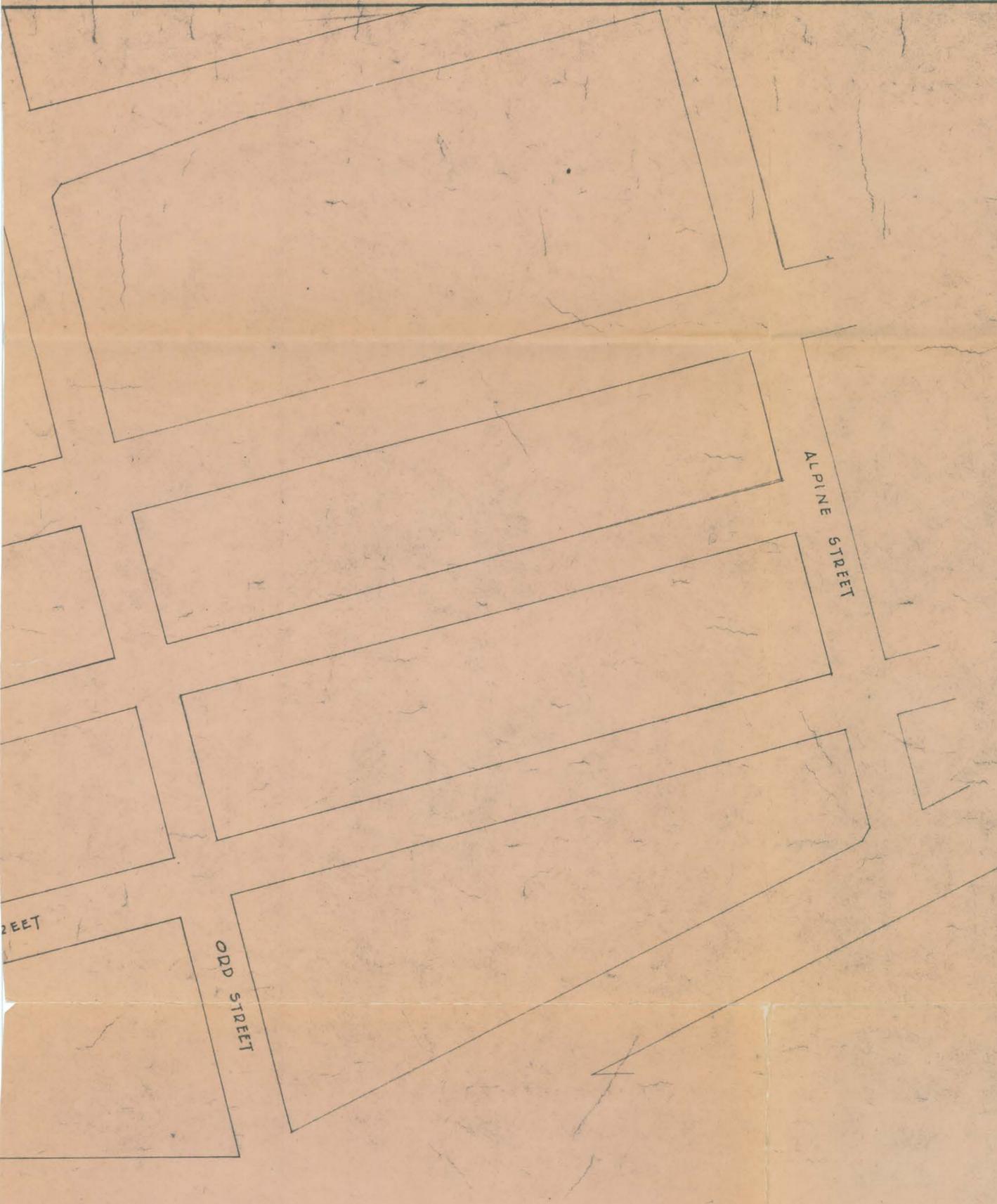
R. R. BRIDGE
NOT IN USE

ALAMEDA STREET

UNION STATION



Revised: Dec. 7, 1972
Changed portion of Sunset Blvd.
to Macy St.



Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Monument

REVISED BOUNDARY
SEPT. 21, 1972

SCHEME 2

LEGEND



EXISTING BUILDINGS



EXISTING STREET LINES



REVISED HISTORIC MONUMENT
BOUNDARY LINE. Sept. 21, 1972.



EXCLUSIONS:
EXISTING BUILDINGS A to E INCLUSIVE, ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE MONUMENT AREA AS THEY LACK HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE; AND ARE SUBJECT TO REMOVAL AND/OR RE-DEVELOPMENT.

A.

WESTERLY ADDITION (THREE STORIES) TO THE ORIGINAL BRUNSWICK BUILDING ADDRESS: 501 N. MAIN ST.

B.

FORMER SUPERIOR COURTS BUILDING (FIVE STORIES) ADDRESS: 510 NEW HIGH STREET.

C.

FORMER M.T.A. POWER GENERATING STATION. ADDRESS: 10 OLVERA STREET,

D.

LOS ANGELES PLAZA METHODIST CHURCH (ONE STORY WITH BALCONY; BASEMENT). ADDRESS: 115 SUNSET BOULEVARD

E.

BISCAILUZ BUILDING (FOUR STORIES; BASEMENT.) ADDRESS: 125 SUNSET BOULEVARD.

4456 I

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

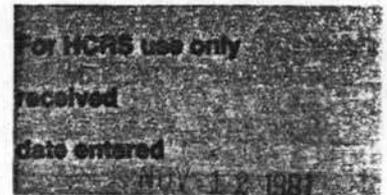
Additional Documentation: 1981

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

RECEIVED
OCT 29 1981



1. Name EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK DISTRICT (N.R. 11/3/72) OHP

historic 1. PLAZA HOUSE (GARNIER BLOCK) 2. VICKREY/BRUNSWIG 3. BRUNSWIG ANNEX
and/or common 4. PLAZA METHODIST CHURCH 5. PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER (BISCAILUZ BUILDING)

2. Location

street & number 1. 507-11 N. Main St. 2. 501 N. Main St. 3. 502 New High (111 Republic)
4. 115 Paseo de la Plaza 5. 125 Paseo de la Plaza — not for publication

city, town Los Angeles — vicinity of congressional district 25th

state California code county Los Angeles code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	— agriculture — museum
— building(s)	— private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	— commercial — park
— structure	— both	— work in progress	— educational — private residence
— site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	— entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
— object	— in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	— government — scientific
	— being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	— industrial — transportation
		— no	— military — other:

4. Owner of Property

name Bldgs #1-3: County of Los Angeles Bldgs #4-5: State of California
street & number Hall of Administration Department of Parks & Recreation
225 N. Hill Street P.O. Box 2390
city, town Los Angeles, CA 90012 — vicinity of Sacramento, CA 95811
state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hall of Records
street & number 227 N. Broadway
city, town Los Angeles state California 90012

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Survey for Los Angeles City
title Historic Preservation Overlay Zone has this property been determined eligible? yes — no
date May, 1981 — federal — state — county — local
depository for survey records Cultural Heritage Bd., Cultural Affairs Dept., 200 N. Spring St.
city, town Los Angeles state California 90012

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

*This buildings
are already
in the district
BB 11/30/81*

This nomination amendment concerns five structures contiguous to the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places on November 3, 1972. It is designed to add three structures which are located within the original boundaries of the district: the Brunswig Annex, the Plaza Community Center (Biscailuz Building) and the Plaza Methodist Church. It also contains more information concerning the Plaza House and the Vickrey/Brunswig Building which were included within the original district but were not discussed in adequate detail.

The three additional buildings, constructed between 1897 and 1926, contribute to the historical character of the El Pueblo district which is the birthplace and historical core of Los Angeles. As noted, these structures are contiguous to the district and are visually linked to it. Although altered, these structures conform to the basic height and scale of the district, and they remain on their original sites.

The immediate area of the Los Angeles County-owned buildings is defined by New High Street to the west, North Main Street to the east, Republic Street to the south and the Plaza Catholic Church to the north. The buildings date from c.1883-97 and were constructed of brick and/or concrete painted beige, with flat roofs and simple plans, and they are currently used for storage purposes or are vacant. Much of the original ornamentation has been removed and all the buildings are in a state of disrepair.

The area surrounding the buildings consists of sidewalks and a parking lot opening onto New High Street, which passes through the center of the property. The two other buildings included in this nomination amendment are located within the Plaza area. The Plaza Methodist Church (4) and the Plaza Community Center (Biscailuz Building) (5) stand side by side on the north end of the Plaza Kiosco area, east of Olvera Street, and west of Alameda Street. Both were built in 1926.

- 1) PLAZA HOUSE (GARNIER BLOCK*)
Location: 507-11 North Main

Date: 1883
Owner: County of Los Angeles

The Plaza House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the district in 1972 but requires further description at this time.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

BOUNDARY CHANGE FOR EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES,
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

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The plan is rectangular. It is a two-story brick structure with a five-bay front. It is adjacent to the Vickrey/Brunswick Building, with the Pico House and the Merced Theatre located diagonally across the street. It faces east.

Philippe Garnier, a Frenchman, built the structure in 1883 as a combination hotel and commercial building. It was designed by the firm of Kysor and Morgan who were responsible for the design of the Pico House and the Merced Theatre in c.1870.

The ground floor originally housed stores, a saloon and a restaurant, with lodging rooms upstairs located on either side of a central hall. A large skylight runs in a north-south direction along the roof. There is a wooden kitchen at the rear (west).

The east facade is 60.5 feet long. Its ground floor store fronts are presently boarded over, but historically were divided into three separate entrances. These entrances are flanked by molded pilasters and were originally headed by large glass transoms. The original windows have been altered and are now multi-paned. Second story windows are segmentally arched with fluted pilaster-like mullions and continuous sills. The windows vary in size: the central window and end windows are double and the remaining are triple (double mullions). Each window has 1/1 lights and a decorative leaded glass transom. The facade has a molded belt course between each window and transom.

Very little of the original ornament remains as it was removed by the County for fear of seismic hazard following the earthquake of 1971. This included the bracketed cornice, dentils and panelled frieze, as well as the detailed central triangular pediment, the "Garnier Block" relief at the base of this pediment and the "Plaza House" relief below. The continuous molding, or archivolt, above each of the second-story windows and the panelled areas directly below the continuous sills were also removed. Unfortunately, only ghosts of some of the building's decorative elements remain. However, it must be noted that the basic structural elements have remained unaltered and the building would be very suitable for restoration.

The interior of the Plaza House appears to be very little altered, although it has been severely damaged due to vandalism and neglect. It has

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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BOUNDARY CHANGE FOR EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES,
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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a very pleasing floor plan and would also be well suited for restoration.

*The Plaza House was at one time known as the Garnier Block, however the name is not currently used due to possible confusion with the present Garnier Block located within the park.

2) VICKREY/BRUNSWIG BUILDING
Location: 501 North Main

Date: 1888
Owner: County of Los Angeles

The Vickrey/Brunswig Building is situated on the corner of Republic Street and North Main. The building was constructed by Ofield Vickrey in 1888 as a commercial endeavor. According to a Los Angeles Herald in 1888, R.B. Young was the architect of the then 20-room, \$85,000 building. Lot dimensions were 58.10 feet on North Main, 96.95 feet on Republic and 106.71 feet along the south wall of the Plaza House. The building had three stores on North Main with a passageway behind and two additional stores running in a north-south direction behind it which opened on Sonora Street (Republic Street). The passageway contained an elevator and a stairway. Another stairway rose from the North Main Street entrance. A huge skylight ran from east to west on the roof.

The five-story brick and concrete building (with basement) is four bays wide and seven bays deep. It is painted beige with brown trim imitating the color scheme of the Plaza House next door. It has a recessed entrance with double doors which have a large double-pane transom on the north side.

Each story of the Vickrey/Brunswig Building is defined by its own distinctive window type. The second and fourth story windows are segmentally arched with scrollwork within the arch. Third-story windows are rectangular with turned pilaster-like mullions and dentilled lintels. Fifth-story windows are round arched. The bays on either end of the front have triple windows; the center bays are double. Each bay is framed by an engaged pilaster with ornamental capitals. The window pattern is repeated on the building's south side.

Like the Plaza House, much of the Vickrey/Brunswig's original ornament was removed for fear of earthquake hazard in the early 1970's. Its

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ground floor molded pilasters were removed as well as the original bracketed cornice, decorative panelled frieze, dentils, and roof cresting. Heavy molding on the eaves and corner pilasters were removed. The centrally located triangular pediments, which appear in early photographs, were removed also. The name of the building has changed three times, and accordingly the title in the triforium of the pediment: in 1888, "Vickrey Building," in 1905, "F.W. Braun," and later, "Brunswig."

A photograph taken in 1905 shows all of the north elevation windows bricked in, possibly to create a continuous wall surface for advertising, as appears in the photo for the F.W. Braun Company (photo 12). Existing north elevation windows vary. Five of the seven bays have been altered and are rectangularly shaped with 6/1 lights, plain lug sills and plain lintels. Two of the seven bays have been bricked in and appear to have been segmentally arched with plain lintels and sills. The building is currently used for storage purposes by the County. It was abandoned in July of 1976 due to possible hazard from its asbestos insulation and unreinforced brick.

3) BRUNSWIG ANNEX

Location: 502 New High Street
111 Republic Street

Date: 1897
Owner: County of Los Angeles

The Brunswig Annex Building was constructed in 1897 on the corner of Sonora Street (Republic Street) and New High, directly behind the Vickrey/Brunswig Building. The original rectangular, two-story building had a third story added sometime between 1897 and 1909. The brick line of this new story is still visible. According to the County assessment records, large scale improvements were made to the building in 1909. The structure is four bays deep with a segmentally arched entrance on the south elevation, eastern end.

First and second story windows are segmentally arched with simple brick lintels. More recent third story windows are coupled with round arches, continuous molded lintels and plain lug sills. The rear (west) elevation has asymmetrically placed rectangular windows: three on the second story, and one on the third; it has a recessed entrance with double doors at the northern end. Also adding interest to the building are decorative glass tiles which are firmly fixed in the adjacent sidewalks.

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It was nine bays wide and fifteen bays deep. It has always faced south toward what is now Paseo de la Plaza. A rear three-bay deep block still stands a story taller than the remainder of the building and projects four or five feet eastward toward Union Station.

The original ground level was 1 1/2 stories and consisted of a recessed, segmentally arched arcade-like entry, and an elevated (10 steps) central entrance with three floor-to-ceiling windows on either side. It had an iron balustrade enclosing its open front porch. Windows were designed in groups of three; all were simple rectangular casements with single-pane transoms. Fourth-story windows originally had decorative lintels and all the windows had plain lug sills. Between each three-bay section at the fourth-story level was a simple pilaster (each was flanked by a molded ornament). Also above each three-bay section was a square molded ornament.

Because the structure was built on a slight slope, the north (rear) elevation is approximately six feet lower than the south facade. The original front basement windows were small eight-light casements. To the rear however (east side), the lower story was large enough to contain a 1-car garage. Directly adjacent to the garage, on the east side, there also was an iron fire escape.

During the 1960's, the building was much altered by Burnett C. Turner to give it a more Spanish style appearance. A tiled hipped roof was added to the main block, and one was also added to the rear projecting section. Each three-bay window grouping was combined to create single windows with double mullions. The building now stands three bays wide by five bays deep. Third story windows have small iron balconies. Fourth-story windows have continuous sills. The original segmentally arched arcade-like entry has been altered; it has been extended around the east side of the building and is now more of a continuous arcade with round arched openings. The elevated central entrance is decorated with colorful Mexican tiles, and a simple iron railing encloses a small stairway which now runs from east to west. Heavy wooden beams stand overhead. The stucco is painted white and on the facade, behind the arcade, is a mural, "Blessing of the Animals," painted by Leo Politi.

The building is occupied by the Mexican Consulate-General, and was completely altered in the interior during the 1960's to create space for several offices.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park District is significant, in the words of the 1972 nomination, as "the living composite story of Los Angeles from Indian times prior to 1781 through Spanish, Mexican and American periods to become the nation's largest city on the Pacific basin. The Plaza area of Los Angeles offers a unique opportunity for telling the story of the founding and growth of the nation's third-largest city." The five structures with which this nomination amendment is concerned contribute to the significance of the El Pueblo district by adding appreciably to its "living composite story."

The Brunswig Annex Building documents the "Americanization" and the strong involvement of French and French Canadian settlers in this predominantly hispanic town of the 1870's and 1880's. The remaining structures illustrate the continuing use of the Plaza area for a variety of urban functions during the early twentieth century.

The manner in which these structures contribute to the significance of the district can be discussed in terms of the specific site history of each.

The PLAZA HOUSE (GARNIER BLOCK) (1) was built on property owned by Pío Pico, last Mexican Governor of Alta California, and by B. Sodela (Sottela) in c.1856. Pío Pico maintained a large house running the full length of the north/south property line along Calle Principal (Main Street). The small adobe belonging to Sodela was situated on the north property line at the rear of the lot.

An 1876 photo shows the long narrow adobe on North Main (which had belonged to Jesus Dominguez in the early 1850's before Pio Pico acquired it). In 1882-83 this adobe and any other small outbuildings on the site were levelled to make room for Phillippe Garnier's hotel and shops. Garnier was later responsible for the Garnier Block on Los Angeles Street which was built in 1891 for Chinese occupancy.

In 1887, the building housed a store at 407 North Main, a saloon at 409, and a restaurant at 411. An 1888 photo shows a livery stable in the building, while the Vickrey/Brunswig (2) is under construction next door. Sleeping rooms were located to the rear of the Plaza House, and upstairs. A prominent Los Angeles physician of Spanish origin named G. Del Amo had his medical offices at 411 through 1894; Dr. Del Amo was also the Spanish Consul. Later he married a member of the Domiguez family. Doctor Lucio Zabala was

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in the building in 1891, and then throughout the 1890's there were a bakery at 511, a physician at 511 1/2, groceries at 507 and 509 and a gallery at 513. The building was called "Tourist Block" in 1892 and "Ohio House" from 1892-94. In 1910 it was listed in the Directories as "hotel, 507-11 North Main." The structure was owned by Marianne C. G. Garnier until about 1913 when it was transferred to Peter Garnier. In 1914 there was a clothing and dry goods store at 509, and by 1921 the building was referred to as the "Garnier Block Hotel." By 1931 the building was owned by the Farmers and Merchants National Bank, who sold it to the Garnier Holding Company in 1940. "La Esperanza" bakery and restaurant had moved in by c.1930, and remained throughout the 1950's. The bakery sign still stands over the door. The County purchased the building in 1948. It housed the County Sheriff's offices in the 1950's.

The VICKREY/BRUNSWIG BUILDING (2) was built on land owned by Jesus (or Joseph) Dominguez on the corner of Calle Principal (North Main Street) and Hayes Alley (Republic Street). The Dominguez adobe faced North Main during the early 1850's. It was then transferred to Pío Pico (see Plaza House history). By 1887 the lot had become a marble granite yard which included a woodshed, office and one other small building. The 1888 Sanborn map labels 405 North Main "being built" and housing five stores. A photo taken soon after the building was completed shows that the "Vickrey Building" was the home of "Asphalt Paving Co.," whose company remained there until at least 1892.

During the early 1890's, the Vickrey Building served as a residence for Thomas W. Temple, who was the editor of "La Cronica," B. Lee Vickrey, Chauncey Vickrey and Miss Dora C. Vickrey; a dressmaker, shirt manufacturer, newspaper, tailor and others occupied the building through 1897. In 1898 F. W. Braun and Co. purchased the building at 501-05 North Main. Braun moved from his former offices at 401-07 North Main where he had maintained a wholesale drug business. The F. W. Braun Company was incorporated in 1902 as the Los Angeles branch of the southern and midwestern firm of Brunswig and Braun.

Lucien Brunswig, born in 1854 in Montmedy, France, was a well known philanthropist who began his drug manufacturing career in Atchison, Kansas and owned a drug store in Fort Worth, Texas. The son of a doctor, Brunswig started work in the drug business at the age of seventeen.

Brunswig first came to Los Angeles in 1887 from New Orleans to establish a branch of his drug company on New High Street, within a block of

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the later site. The Brunswig family, consisting of Lucien and his wife, Marguerite, with their four daughters and one son, moved to Los Angeles permanently in 1905. By July 26, 1907, Brunswig had bought his partner, Braun, out and incorporated Brunswig Drug with branches in Phoenix, Tucson and San Diego.

The Vickrey/Brunswig Building was first used for the manufacture and storage of drugs in 1907. By 1910, Brunswig Drug had spread into the Brunswig Annex Building (3), the Old Brunswig Building (to its north) and to the Beaudry Building (which was destroyed in c.1930). Within a few years the company had the largest manufacturing labs west of Chicago. They produced all of the standard pharmaceutical products and maintained distribution to all parts of the United States, Canada and England.

Lucien N. Brunswig founded the pharmacy school at the University of Southern California. In 1927 he donated 1,000 French literature books to UCLA. He created a foundation for the aid of French tubercular children after the Second World War, and was titled Chevalier of France by the French Government for his founding of the French Red Cross on the Pacific coast of the United States during World War One. During the late 1920's, he was one of six men who contributed \$5,000 to the Plaza de Los Angeles Inc. to help Christine Sterling create a Mexican marketplace on Olvera Street.

The building has been owned by the County of Los Angeles since the 1940's and has been used mainly for the Civil Service and Police Crime Laboratory.

The BRUNSWIG ANNEX building (3) was constructed on the site of Los Angeles' first gas works of 1867-69 (built by James Walsh). An 1869 photograph shows one gas tank there; soon after there were two. According to the 1872 Le Couvreur map there were four small structures on the south property line along Hayes Alley (Republic Street). The Los Angeles Star of October, 1871 mentions a gasometer being built at the city gasworks along with the foundation for a new building next to the old one. The tank was quoted as being eighteen feet high and ninety feet in circumference. The new building was required by the increased demand for light.

During the 1880's the Los Angeles Gas Company was headed by C. H. Simpkins, President, and V. E. Plater, Vice President. Their office was located at 9 Sonora Street (Republic Street, formerly Hayes Alley). According

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BOUNDARY CHANGE FOR EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK DISTRICT, LOS ANGELES,
LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

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to the 1883-87 Sanborn map, there were three buildings along Sonora Street running back to New High: the two-story Gas Company building, a one-story storage shed and a small iron pipe fitting shop. In 1888, the Gas Company building was labeled, "two story pipe fitting shop" with a one story "pipe fitting" shop attached to its west elevation and a twenty feet long storage room on the corner of New High and Sonora. These three added up to 72.81 feet on Republic Street and comprised the "LA Gas Company." An 1894 birds-eye map of Los Angeles shows the two-story building with the smokestack. This building was demolished and the present building was constructed on the site of 1897 (Daily Journal, July 10, 1897, pg. 4). This 1897 building had a third story added by 1909 in which year the Assessor's map showed greatly increased "improvements."

The structure was acquired by the County of Los Angeles together with the Vickrey/Brunswig Building in 1946. The County paid \$293,000 to the Brunswig Drug Company.

The PLAZA METHODIST CHURCH (4) and the PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER (BIS-CAILUZ BUILDING) (5) are located on the site of Bartolo Tapias adobe and land on the north side of the Plaza, at the corner of Wine Street. The adobe was constructed between 1830-45. It was later owned by Bartolo's son, Tiburcio. In 1856 Judge Agustin Olvera acquired the building. In 1877, Wine Street was changed by City ordinance to Olvera Street, although by this time Judge Olvera no longer lived there. The building was owned by Judge Olvera's daughter, Luisa O. de Forbes, until the early 1900's. The adobe remained standing until 1917, after having served as a residence and commercial structure. From 1883 on, the adobe housed five (or more) Chinese businesses with Chinese living quarters behind.

The first Methodist Missionary work among Hispanic people was undertaken in Los Angeles, Pasadena and Santa Ana between 1880 and 1910. The Los Angeles headquarters, the Plaza Methodist Church, began as a small mission in 1899. The church congregation came together in the one-story Olvera Adobe at what was then 125 Marchessault Street (later Sunset Boulevard and now Paseo de la Plaza). The first full time pastor was Reverend Enrique Narro.

The 1905 and 1910 Baist maps show the adobe divided into five addresses: 115, 115 1/2, 117, 119, and 121 Marchessault Street. This was property formerly owned by Luisa Olvera de Forbes, who sold it to the "LA Land Com-

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pany's Tract #1." By 1911, a Dr. Vernon McCombs had established several Methodist Missions throughout California. He also founded three social institutions beyond his endeavors as the leader of Hispanic Methodist Church work on the West Coast. These three were the Spanish American Institute for Boys, Frances DePauw school for girls, and the Plaza Community Center. The original location of the Community Center was also within the Olvera Adobe. The center was, among other things, a small clinic and a training school for handicapped persons run by Goodwill Industries in Southern California.

The Church and Community Center remained in the adobe until it was demolished in 1916. Sometime between that time and 1921, three frame structures were built on the site to house the Church and Center. In 1926, these wooden bungalows were moved across North Main to New High Street, and the two present buildings were constructed. The architects for both were Train and Williams.

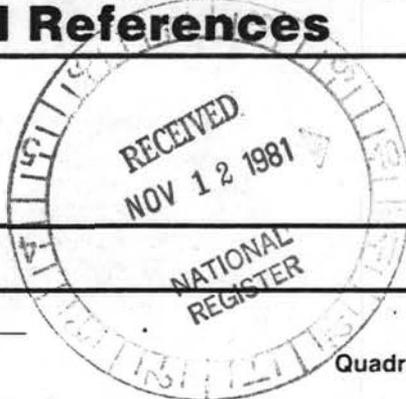
Rev. Eucario Sein and Dr. McCombs had long wished to build a church combining Hispanic tradition and Protestant heritage. With the assistance of the Los Angeles Missionary Society of the Methodist Church and other agencies and individuals, the Plaza Methodist Church was realized. The Plaza Community Center building next door housed the United Methodist Church Conference Headquarters from 1926-56. It had child day care, social services and the clinic. In 1956, the clinic was relocated at 648 South Indiana Avenue.

The Plaza Community Center/Conference Headquarters building was sold to the State in 1956. In 1957 Mrs. Christine Sterling wished the building to become headquarters for all the Latin American Consuls in Los Angeles. Her design was inspired by a post office in Mexico City, and was drawn up by the architect for the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Corporation, Burnett C. Turner. The building was vacant until 1963 when the temporary offices of the Latin American Trade Mart moved in. In March of 1964, the Trade Mart opened in a building on the north end of Olvera Street. In 1965, a new state commission for El Pueblo was created which did not favor Mrs. Sterling's earlier architectural plans for the building. They instructed Mr. Turner to redesign it. The Mexican Consulate-General moved in in 1960, and after some time, they moved out and returned in 1973. At that time the structure was renamed the Biscailuz Building in honor of Sherriff Eugene Biscailuz.

The Plaza Methodist Church has had six pastors since 1926, the present being Dr. José M. Fernandez. The Church was designated a Methodist Historic Site in June, 1979 by the Pacific and Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET



10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 10

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

UMT References

A

1	1	3	8	5	5	5	0	3	7	6	8	9	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	1	3	8	5	9	2	0	3	7	6	9	1	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	1	3	8	5	7	4	0	3	7	6	8	7	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Area 1: N. Main St. southerly to Republic St., thence westerly to N. Spring St., thence northerly to the southern property line of the Plaza Catholic Church, thence easterly to N. Main. Area 2: bounded by Olvera St west, Paseo de la Plaza south, Placita de Dolores east, and Plaza Substation north.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Miller, Member of the Board, LA Conservancy, 849 S. Broadway, ste 1225, LA 90014
 Blaine Mallory, Historical Researcher, El Pueblo SHP, LA, CA 90012
 Jean Bruce Poole, Senior Curator, El Pueblo SHP, LA, CA 90012
 organization Katherine A. Peters, Historical Researcher, date El Pueblo SHP, LA, CA 90012

street & number EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES STATE HISTORIC PARK 845 NORTH ALAMEDA STREET telephone _____
 city or town LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 state _____

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *K. Miller*

title *SHPO* date *11/4/81*

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 _____ date _____
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Robert Rosell - Canadian Society of Los Angeles
Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Staude - daughter, son-in-law of Lucien Brunswig, & Brunswig Company employee
Burnett Turner - former El Pueblo Park architect
Dr. Jose Fernandez - Methodist Church pastor
William M. Mason - Los Angeles Museum of Natural History
Mrs. Cheffelin - granddaughter of Lucien Brunswig

Maps:

Stahlberg 1876
LeCouvreur 1872
Sanborn 1883-87, 1888
Dakin 1888
Baist 1905, 1910, 1921

Newspapers: Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

Los Angeles Star: 12/15/1870, pg. 3, col. 2.
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1/10/1871, pg. 3, col. 1.
2/8/1871, pg. 3, col. 1.
5/7/1871, pg. 3, col. 1.
5/13/1871, pg. e, col. 2.
Los Angeles Times 7/18/1943

City Directories: El Pueblo copy collection

Los Angeles: 1872, 1884, 1887, 1888, 1890, 1891-99, 1914

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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PHOTOGRAPHS:

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL PHOTOGRAPHS INCLUDED IN THIS NOMINATION AMENDMENT HAVE
NEGATIVES ON FILE AT:

El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park
History and Public Affairs Division
845 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

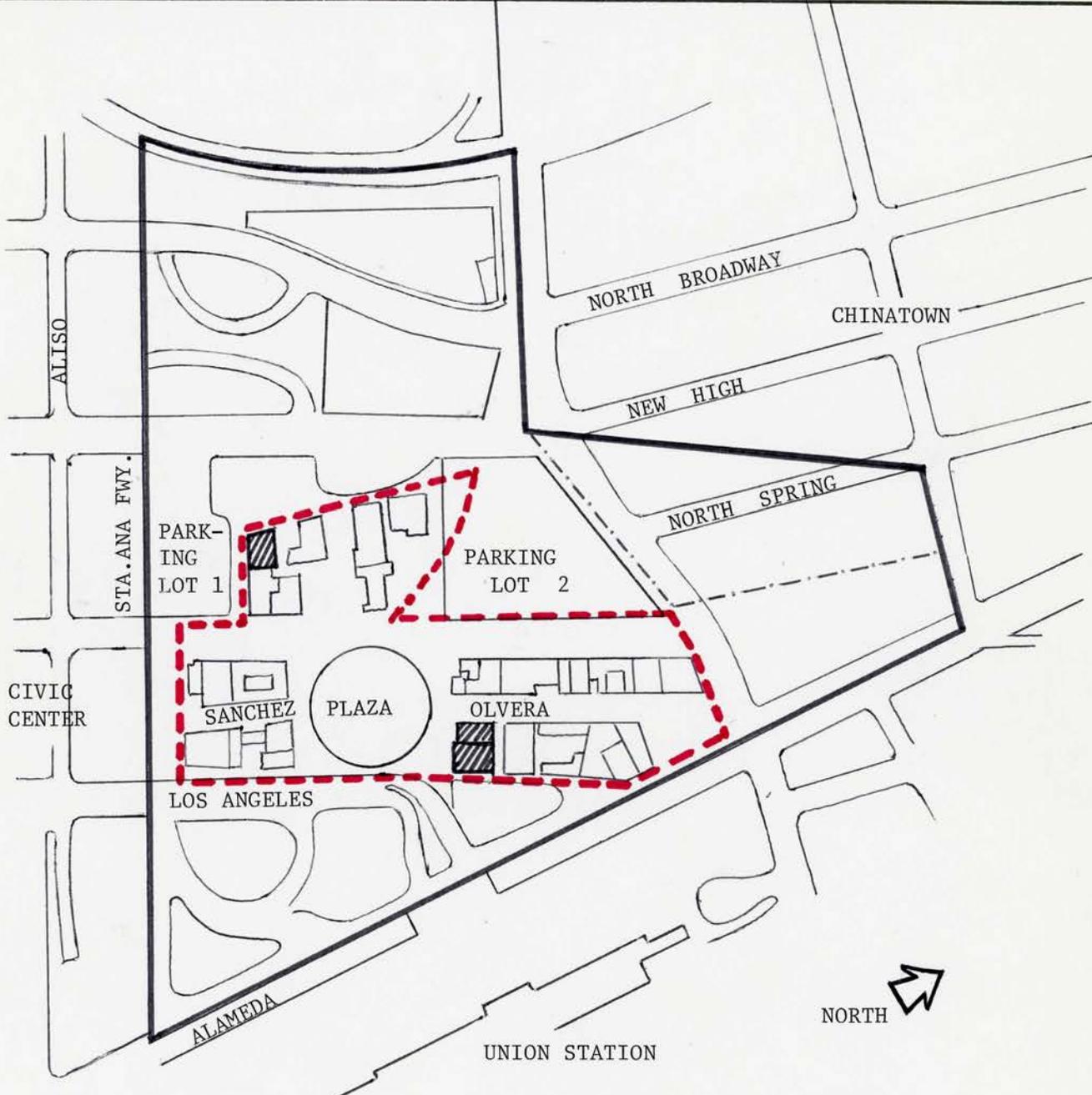
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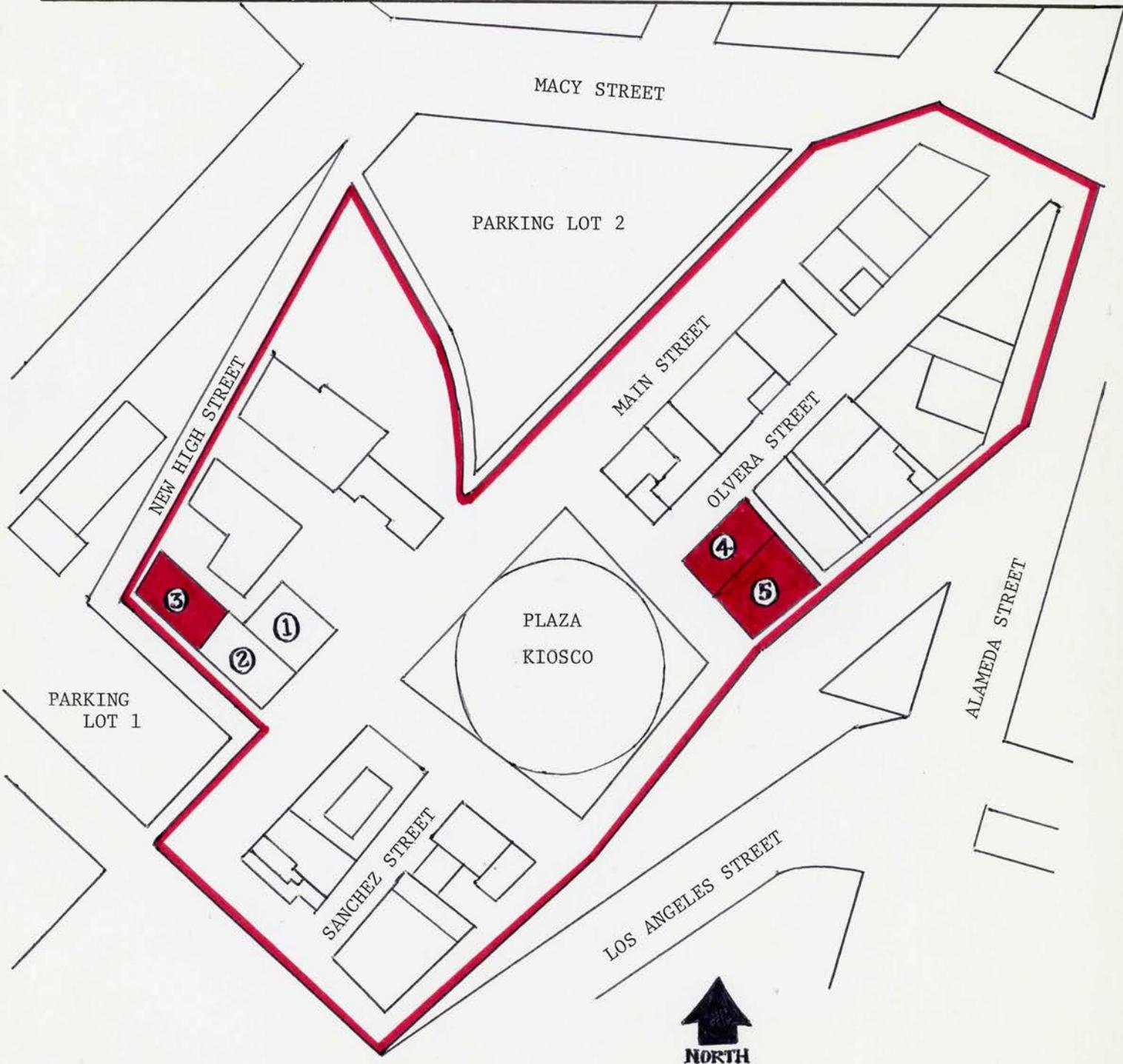
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BOUNDARY LINE FOR EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES
STATE HISTORIC PARK NAT'L REGISTER DISTRICT

0 100 200 300 400

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NEW HIGH STREET

REPUBLIC STREET

①
BRUNSWIG
ANNEX

1897

VICKREY-
BRUNSWIG
BUILDING

②

1888

③
PLAZA
HOUSE

1883

PLAZA
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

NORTH MAIN STREET

PICO HOUSE

SOURCE: EL PUEBLO GENERAL PLAN
YEAR: 1979
MAP: NOT TO SCALE

NORTH



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MAIN STREET

--	--

OLVERA STREET

PLAZA METHODIST CHURCH ④	
PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER ⑤	

PLAZA KIOSCO

PASEO DE LA PLAZA

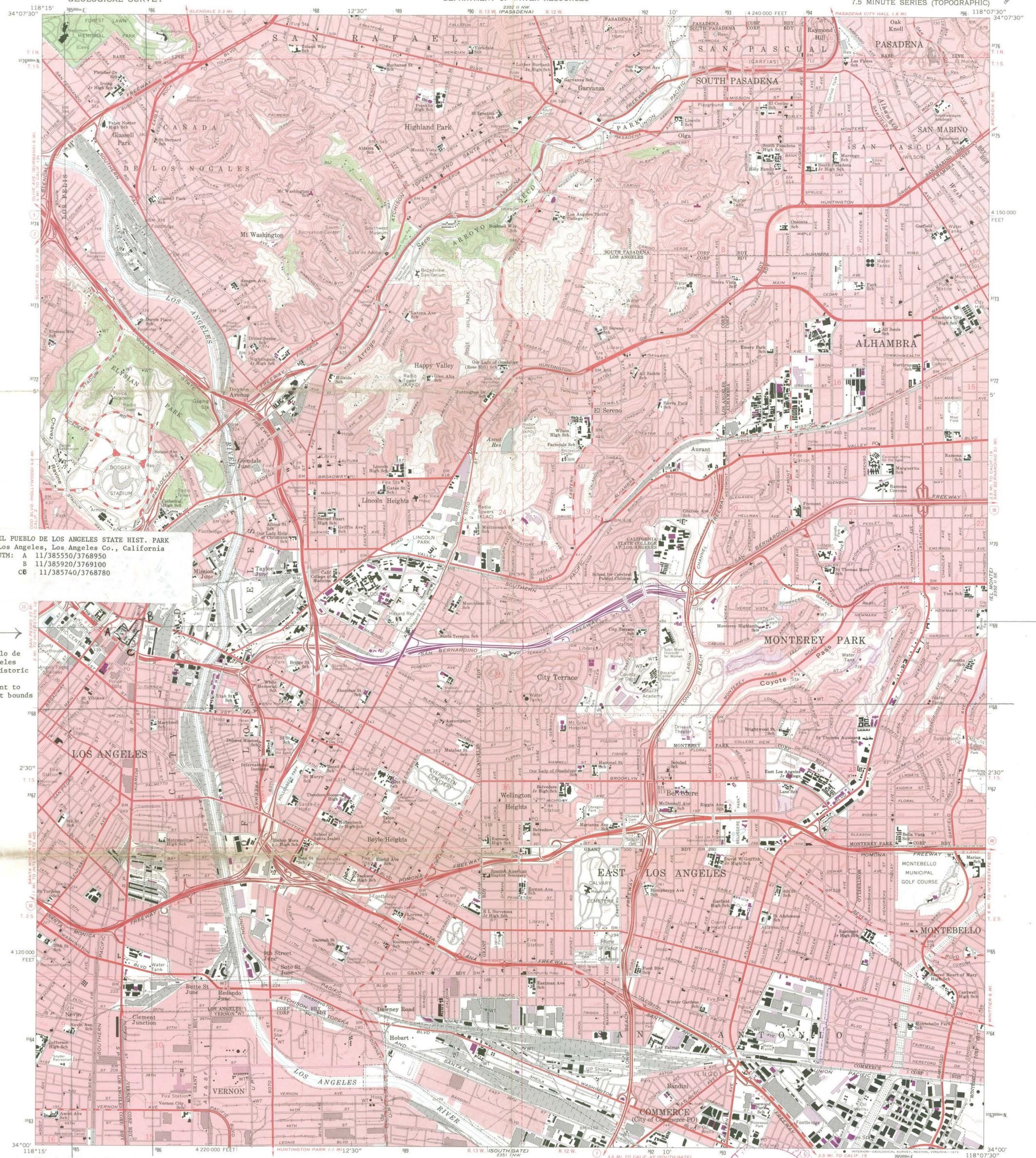
LOS ANGELES STREET

ALAMEDA STREET

SOURCE: EL PUEBLO
GENERAL PLAN
YEAR: 1979
MAP: NOT TO SCALE

NORTH





EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES STATE HIST. PARK
Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., California
UTM: A 11/385550/3768950
B 11/385920/3769100
C 11/385740/3768780

El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park
Amendment to district bounds

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NATIONAL REGISTER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
Interstate Route — U.S. Route — State Route —

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Los Angeles City and County
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966
Supersedes map surveyed 1923-25, revised 1953
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on California coordinate system, zone 7
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 11, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
A portion of the south half of this map lies within a subsidence area
Vertical control based on the latest available adjustment



SCALE 1:24,000
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1972. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
N3400—W11807.5/7.5

1966
PHOTOREVISED 1972
AMS 2352 II SW—SERIES V895

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2016

72000231

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

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MAY 6 2016

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Los Angeles Plaza Historic District (Amendment)

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Other names/site number: El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park District; El Pueblo de Los Angeles; El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic District

Name of related multiple property listing:

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)
N/A

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by W. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue (north), N. Los Angeles/N. Alameda Streets (east), W. Arcadia Street (south), and N. Spring Street (west).

City or town: Los Angeles State: California County: Los Angeles

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide x local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___ B x C ___ D

		Agency State Historic Preservation Officer		<u>5/3/16</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date		
<u>California Office of Historic Preservation</u>				
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government				
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.				
Signature of commenting official:		Date		
Title :		State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

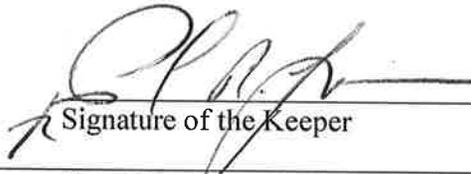
Los Angeles Plaza Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

6/21/2016
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing Noncontributing

Los Angeles Plaza Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

<u>21</u>	<u>7</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>22</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 15

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- COMMERCE/business
- COMMERCE/warehouse
- RELIGION/religious facility
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/hotel
- LANDSCAPE/plaza
- GOVERNMENT/fire station
- FUNERARY/cemetery
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater
- SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- COMMERCE/business
- COMMERCE/restaurant
- COMMERCE/warehouse
- RELIGION/religious facility
- LANDSCAPE/plaza
- FUNERARY/cemetery

Los Angeles Plaza Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL/Spanish Colonial

LATE VICTORIAN/Stick/Eastlake

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

OTHER/Adobe

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete foundations; brick, adobe, wood, and stucco walls; asphalt and terra cotta roofs.

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Los Angeles Plaza Historic District encompasses approximately 9.5 acres in downtown Los Angeles, California. The district includes 22 contributing and 8 noncontributing resources, which date from the early 19th century through the early 20th century. It occupies a relatively level portion of land between the Los Angeles River (approximately 0.6 miles to the southeast) and the hilly terrain to the northwest. Centered on an open plaza, the district is roughly bounded by W. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue (north), N. Los Angeles and N. Alameda Streets (east), W. Arcadia Street (south), and N. Spring Street (west).

Located in the historic core of Los Angeles, the district represents a rare, intact, and diverse group of historic/cultural resources that exemplify the founding and early growth of the city. These resources include buildings and sites from the city's Spanish, Mexican, and early American periods, and range from 18th century adobe buildings and large Victorian commercial blocks, to Spanish Revival buildings from the early 20th century.

The district was first listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 3, 1972. The nomination was subsequently amended on October 29, 1981 to include five additional contributing resources and to provide additional information on two buildings listed in the original nomination.

Los Angeles Plaza Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

The National Register nomination for the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District is being updated to fulfill the following objectives:

- (1) To reframe the nomination in accordance with current historic preservation standards (in particular, those outlined in *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, 1997).
- (2) To add, remove, and reclassify contributing resources. A number of resources were previously included within the boundaries of the district but not identified as contributing or non-contributing. These include the Italian Hall, the Plaza Substation, the Simpson-Jones Building, and the Hellman-Quon building, among others.
- (3) To include as a contributing element the Plaza Church Cemetery (which at the time of the 1972 and 1981 nominations consisted of a surface parking lot). Partially excavated in 2010/2011, the Plaza Church Cemetery is now covered with a memorial garden with interpretive signage.
- (4) Removal of the Brunswig Annex, which was demolished in 2008, from the list of contributors.

Narrative Description

Throughout the Spanish and Mexican periods, the Plaza area was the center of life for the developing pueblo. It was the location of the Plaza Church, its cemetery, and the community's primary water source, the Zanja Madre. In addition, the Plaza area was fashionable for residential construction during the Spanish and Mexican periods and was surrounded by the adobe townhouses of the city's most prominent families, including the Sepulvedas, Olveras, and Lugos. Little immediate change occurred within the Plaza area in the early American period as evidenced by a report from 1860, which described Los Angeles as a group of one-story houses mostly "build [sic] of adobe or some burnt brick with very thick walls and flat roofs" (National Register of Historic Places, 1972).

While the area north of the Plaza retained a characteristically Mexican-colonial character in the following decade, the area to the south began a transformation into a vibrant American city, reflective of the latest trends and styles in architecture. Buildings constructed between the late 1850s and 1870s in the Plaza continue to reflect this era. They consist primarily of brick buildings with Victorian and Italianate designs. Extant examples include the Pico House, Masonic Hall, and Merced Theater. With the arrival of the railroad and subsequent population and construction boom of the 1880s, the rate of this transformation intensified. Many of the flat-roofed adobe buildings of the Spanish and Mexican periods were demolished to make way for more contemporaneously designed buildings, including the Eastlake Sepulveda House and the Richardsonian Romanesque Garnier Block.

Los Angeles Plaza Historic District
Name of Property

Los Angeles, California
County and State

A number of smaller brick commercial blocks were developed along Olvera Street during the early 20th century. However, the shift of the central business district southward, as well as the continued outward growth of the city, resulted in the overall deterioration of the Plaza area by the 1920s. By this time, Olvera Street was an unpaved alley used to make deliveries to the rear entrances of the shops fronting Main Street; the Avila Adobe was condemned by the Department of Health, declared unfit for human habitation (Poole and Ball 2002:48).

The state of Olvera Street by this time inspired the efforts of Christine Sterling to preserve and transform the area, in a romanticized transformation of Olvera Street into a Mexican-colonial open-air market, complete with *puestos* (or small street smalls) and a statue commemorating the founding of Los Angeles. This renewed interest in Los Angeles's historic core also resulted in the construction of new buildings such as the Plaza Methodist Church and Biscailuz Building, which were constructed in the Spanish Revival style popular during the 1920s.

Although some buildings have been altered since the 1981 update, the components that define the historic character of the district remain intact and largely unchanged. The district retains integrity and continues to convey the sense of its historic environment dating to the period of significance.

Individual Building Descriptions

The following section draws primarily from the previous nomination forms, noting any changes that have occurred since the district was last amended in 1981.

1. Plaza, North Main Street, circa 1815 – Contributing

Since its early development, the central focus of activity in El Pueblo de Los Angeles was and continues to be the Plaza. The Plaza was laid out at its present-day location between 1825 and 1830 following recurring flooding of the Los Angeles River. By the 1830s, it was a square, open plaza surrounded by the adobe townhouses of prominent settlers. The city's first water storage tank was constructed at the center of the plaza in 1861, where it remained until it was removed in 1871. At that time, the Plaza was reshaped into a circular design, and the central fountain was installed. In 1875, the Plaza was landscaped with orange and cypress trees, and around 1878 the four Moreton Bay fig trees were planted at each side. Paved in cement, the circular Plaza features brick diagonal strips that radiate out from the wrought-iron bandstand at the center, which was installed in 1962. The Plaza is framed around the exterior by low walls of patterned brick that were laid in 1930.

2. Old Plaza Church Rectory, 535 North Main Street, 1983 – Non-Contributing

Located to the north of the Old Plaza Church is the Plaza Church Rectory, an office and pastoral center which was constructed in two phases and completed in 1983. The one- and two-story

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building features a clay-tile roof and is connected to the Plaza Church via a walkway at the rear (west), forming a central courtyard to the north of the church. The building replaced an earlier rectory dating to 1913.

In 1981, in preparation of the rectory's construction, the Northridge Archaeological Research Center (NARC) conducted a study of the area north of the church on behalf of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The study concluded that the area was likely to contain "intact archaeological foundations, features, and artifacts associated with the Padre's quarters" (Singer et al. 1981:33). The study also raised the possibility that the area contained "part of the old cemetery and the old Church garden compound" as well as "aboriginal materials and features associated with the village of *Yang-na*." NARC conducted test excavations at the site, including 44 test units, over approximately eight months in 1981. Five truckloads of additional site materials were transported to the Andres Pico Adobe, and at least two loads were screened and cataloged (Kealhofer 1991:278–280). If NARC produced a report of their findings, it is not housed at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC). The team did produce a record for the site, however, which was given the designation CA-LAN-1112H. The record (NARC 1981) indicates that no human remains had been identified in the excavations as of July 3, 1981.

The results of the NARC excavations were presented in a dissertation prepared by Kealhofer (1991), along with detailed analyses of recovered ceramic artifacts, particularly native-made Mission ware, and faunal bone, particularly cattle. Kealhofer describes a 7-m diameter, Spanish Colonial period trash pit that was once located in the backyard of one of the original plaza house lots, possibly that owned by Pablo Rodriguez from 1781 to 1796. The pit appears to have contained materials from multiple households, however, and it may have been used until the construction of the church in 1818. The excavation revealed several additional features, including the cobble foundations of the original padre's house, as well as later deposits dating through the 1860s, and to a lesser extent, the 1920s. While this evidence suggests the archaeological site may have the potential to yield information, without additional documentation to identify its current integrity, it is not possible to include it as a contributing resource at this time.

3. Old Plaza Church, 535 North Main Street, 1822 – Contributing

The Old Plaza Church is located along North Main Street immediately northwest of the Plaza. Also known as *Iglesia de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles*, or affectionately as *La Placita*, the church was constructed between 1815 and 1822 and is the oldest church in Los Angeles. As originally constructed by Native American laborers, the building was much smaller and capped with a flat brea roof, which was later replaced by wood, and more recently by pitched clay tile. The transepts were most likely constructed during the 1840s; after the primary (east) façade collapsed in 1861 due to heavy rains, it was replaced by the present stucco-covered brick façade. The façade features a wide triangular pediment flanked by pointed buttresses, which is different than an earlier curved gable and double doors that were situated under an arched opening. A Victorian-style bell corner on the southern corner of the façade, also flanked by pointed buttresses, was added in 1869. In 1913, the church was enlarged by expanding the

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sanctuary and west end to the building. Finally in 1965, a new church was added at the northwestern end to accommodate the growing congregation. The original church currently serves as a chapel.

4. Plaza Church Cemetery, North Main Street, 1822 – Contributing

The Los Angeles Plaza Church Cemetery, in use between 1823 and 1844, included burial areas north, south, and possibly east of the Old Plaza Church. The southern area, described here, is located on an approximately 0.36-acre lot situated between the Old Plaza Church to the northeast and the Plaza House to the southwest. The cemetery is presently landscaped as a memorial garden and enclosed by a decorative fence. Following the opening of the nearby Calvary Cemetery in 1844, the grave markers at the Plaza Church Cemetery were removed and an orange grove was planted on the site. The land was leased by the Church sometime around 1900, and by 1905 a small commercial building fronting North Main Street was constructed on the site. Following the purchase of the land by the County of Los Angeles in 1950, the building was demolished and the site was paved to develop a parking lot, which remained in place until its removal in 2001. The site was landscaped with grass and enclosed with a fence until 2010 when construction activities for the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes project resulted in the discovery of historic graves and a subsequent archaeological excavation of the cemetery.

A total of 106 burial features, along with associated artifacts, were identified as a result of the osteological and archaeological analysis of materials recovered from the site during the 2010-2011 excavation efforts (Dietler et al. 2012), and the site was given the designation CA-LAN-4218H. A minimum number of individuals (MNI) of 130 was calculated as result of analysis; however, burial journal records indicate that a total of 693 individuals were interred at the cemetery between 1823 and 1844 (Huntington Library 2006). Burial records of the Plaza Cemetery indicate that Hispanic, Native American, and individuals of varied heritage were buried in the cemetery. The site was found to be previously disturbed, as evidenced by extremely fragile and often commingled skeletal remains and poor artifact condition. Nevertheless, many graves were substantially intact at the time of excavation, including associations between human remains and funerary artifacts.

5. Plaza House/Garnier Block, 507-511 North Main Street, 1883 – Contributing

Constructed in 1883 by early Los Angeles developer Phillipe Garnier, the Plaza House is located southwest of the Plaza Church Cemetery on North Main Street. The two-story brick building was designed by the pioneering Los Angeles architecture firm of Kysor and Morgan, consisting of Ezra F. Kysor and Octavius Weller Morgan Sr. A native of New York, Kysor was one of Los Angeles's earliest and most prolific architects in the final quarter of the nineteenth century. Kysor's early commissions included the Pico House and Merced Theater (described below) and the Saint Vibiana Cathedral. With its Italianate stylistic detailing, the building initially housed commercial space on the ground floor and a hotel on the second floor. Following an earthquake in 1971, much of the original ornamentation on the primary (east) façade was removed for fear

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of seismic hazard. Recently, however, the exterior of the building was rehabilitated with the reconstruction of many of the building's original decorative elements, including the bracketed cornice, dentils, and paneled frieze, as well as the detailed central triangular pediment. This work was completed as part of the building's adaptive reuse by the County of Los Angeles for the LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes center.

6. Vickrey-Brunswig Building, 501 North Main Street, 1888 – Contributing

Adjacent to the Plaza House on the corner of Republic Street and North Main Street, the Vickrey-Brunswig Building was one of the city's first five-story buildings. Commissioned by Indiana native and investor William Vickrey at the height of the 1880s building boom, the Vickrey-Brunswig Building originally served as ground-floor retail space with lodging in the upper floors. The building was designed by pioneering Los Angeles architect Robert Brown Young, principal of R.B. Young & Son, in a transitional Victorian-Italianate style. After Vickrey declared bankruptcy with the collapse of the 1880's boom, the building was purchased by Frederick W. Braun in 1897. Braun, along with his partner Lucien Napoleon Brunswig, established one of Los Angeles's earliest pharmacies and drug stores in the building. In 1907, Brunswig purchased from Braun his interests in the company, which was renamed the Brunswig Drug Company. As with the Plaza House, much of the Vickrey-Brunswig Building's original ornamentation was removed following the 1971 Sylmar earthquake. As part of its adaptive reuse for the LA Plaza Cultura y Artes center, the exterior of the building was rehabilitated and many of the original features were repaired and restored; this included the reconstruction of the bracketed cornice, decorative paneled frieze, dentils, and roof cresting. Additionally, the centrally located triangular pediments were reconstructed, presently featuring the name of the building's last occupants during the period of significance.

7. Pico House, 424 North Main Street, 1869-70 – Contributing

The Pico House, located at the corner of North Main Street and the southwest edge of the Plaza, is a three-story stone and brick hotel built in 1869-70 by Pio Pico, the last Mexican governor of Alta California. The 82-bedroom Pico House was the first three-story building in Los Angeles, and at the time of construction, was considered the finest hotel in southern California. The hotel office, a lobby, two dining rooms, and two stores occupied the ground floor, and suites and a public parlor filled the second floor. Only sleeping rooms were contained on the third. The building also includes two interior courts. The Italianate building was designed by pioneering Los Angeles architect Ezra F. Kysor. The stucco-clad exteriors fronting North Main Street and the Plaza were painted to look like blue granite, with segmental-arched windows used to give the façade an arcade effect. A belt course encircles the building at the second- and third-floor sill levels. Marking the roof line and spanning the façade is a projecting cornice, accented with dentils and brackets, and a paneled frieze beneath. Shaped parapets contain the building's name over the central bays.

8. Merced Theater, 420 North Main Street, 1870 – Contributing

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Abutting the southwest end of the Pico House, the Merced Theater was constructed by William Abbot in 1870 and was the first building constructed in Los Angeles specifically for the presentation of dramatic performances (Poole and Ball 2002:103). Like the Pico House, the Merced was designed by architect Ezra F. Kysor in an ornate Italianate style, with gold painted finials on the roof and balconies, and arched windows deeply set along the façade. Marking the roof of the building is a prominent decorative cornice, which spans the façade and is accented beneath by a course of dentils and a paneled frieze. A curved, partial parapet caps the building. The ground floor, which has housed a saloon, a church, and an armory for the Los Angeles Guard, features a recessed entrance with multi-paned windows. In 1960, the basement was connected to the Garnier Building basement under Sanchez Street.

9. Masonic Hall, 416 North Main Street, 1858 – Contributing

The Masonic Hall is a two-story brick building located on the northeast corner of North Main Street and Arcadia Street. Constructed in 1858, the building was designed by William Perry and James Brady for Los Angeles Lodge No. 42 A & FM (Accepted and Free Masons), and was the first specifically-built lodge meeting hall in Los Angeles. The lodge occupied the second story until 1868, and the ground floor was used for storage and commercial purposes. In the 1870s, the primary (northwest) façade was altered to conform more closely to the Pico House and Merced Theater through the addition of the second floor balcony and the addition of stucco sheathing. The first floor features three pairs of glass- and wood-paneled doors placed under segmental-arched transoms. An elaborate cornice, accented with brackets, dentils, and a paneled frieze, spans the edge of the flat roof. The building was saved from demolition for freeway construction in 1953 when the Los Angeles Masonic community campaigned for its preservation. Restored by the State of California in 1960-62, the building was rededicated as a Masonic Hall in 1962.

10. Garnier Building, 419 North Los Angeles Street, 1890 – Contributing

Located on the northwest corner of Arcadia Street and North Los Angeles Street, the Garnier Building was constructed by early Los Angeles developer Philippe Garnier in 1890 specifically to be used by Chinese renters. The two-story brick and sandstone building was designed by Abraham M. Edelman in a Richardsonian Romanesque style, characterized by rounded stone corbel posts. Garnier only constructed the exterior walls of the building, with Chinese lessees completing the interior walls. Until the State of California acquired the building in the late 1940s, the building acted as the unofficial “City Hall” for the Chinese-American population in Los Angeles. With much of San Francisco’s original Chinatown destroyed during the 1906 earthquake and subsequent fires, it stands as one of the oldest surviving Chinese-American-related buildings in a California metropolitan area (Poole and Ball 2002:104). While the two southwest bays were demolished for construction of U.S. Route 101 in 1953, the remaining original portion of the building retains integrity and is currently occupied by the Chinese American Museum.

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11. Sanchez Building, 425 North Los Angeles Street, 1898 – Contributing

The Sanchez Building is a narrow 3-bay, 2-story brick building located to the south of the Turner Building. Constructed in 1898, it was primarily used by Chinese Americans for commercial and residential purposes. Brick segmental arches head the first-floor wood- and glass-paneled doors with transoms. The 1-over-1 wood sash windows on the second story have brick labels with corbel stops; decorative brickwork runs along the flat roofline. Like the Garnier Building, the Sanchez Building is currently occupied by the Chinese American Museum.

12. Turner Building, 430 Sanchez Street, 1960 – Non-Contributing

The Turner Building adjoins the Sanchez Building to the southwest and the Hellman-Quon Building to the northeast. Constructed in 1960, it is a one-story brick building designed to complement the neighboring buildings.

13. Hellman-Quon Building, 130-132 Paseo de la Plaza, 1900 – Contributing

Constructed in 1900 by Isias Hellman, the Hellman-Quon Building is a one-story brick building fronting on the Plaza. It was long rented by Quon How Shing, who purchased the building in 1920 and owned it until 1954 when the State of California acquired it. The building features rectangular multi-paned windows set under segmental arched and rectangular heads, and brick corbelling, which runs along the flat roof line. Partially rehabilitated, the building is currently used for exhibitions, meetings, and education workshops.

14. Plaza Firehouse, 134 Paseo de la Plaza, 1884 – Contributing

The Plaza Firehouse is a 2-story brick building located on the corner of Paseo de la Plaza and Los Angeles Street. Constructed in 1884, it was the first structure in Los Angeles designed specifically for firefighting equipment and crews, serving in this capacity until 1897. It was converted to other uses following its use as a fire station, such as sleeping rooms on the second floor and a restaurant and saloon on the ground floor. The building features a corbel table that decorates a low stepped parapet and plain brick segmental-arched window heads and 2-over-3 wood sash windows. Above the wide-paneled wood station doors is a frame balcony with a shed roof. The building was completely restored, which included the reconstruction of a cast dome for the fire alarm, and currently operates as a museum that displays firefighting equipment dating to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

15. Biscailuz Building, 125 Paseo de la Plaza, 1926 –Contributing

Adjoining the Plaza Methodist Church to the southeast is the Plaza Community Center (Biscailuz Building) which was constructed in 1926 as the United Methodist Church Conference Headquarters. The present appearance of the four-story masonry building is largely the result of exterior alterations completed during the 1960s that were designed to give the building a more Spanish style appearance. These include the addition of a tiled hipped roof to the previously flat

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roof of the main block, the combination of original three-bay window groupings to create single windows, and the alteration of the original segmentally arched arcade-like entry, which now features a continuous arcade with round arches that extends around the east side of the building. The lower southeast wall of the building features a mural from 1978 by Los Angeles Artist entitled "The Blessing of the Animals," which depicts a traditional ceremony that takes place within the Plaza Area every year on the Saturday before Easter.

The 1981 nomination amendment was prepared in part to include the Biscailuz Building as a contributing building within the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District. As discussed in 1981, the building is visually linked to the district and contributes to the overall historical character of the area. While altered, the building conforms to the general height and scale of the district and remains in its original location.

16. Plaza Methodist Church, 115 Paseo de la Plaza, 1926 – Contributing

The Plaza Methodist Church is located at the intersection of Olvera Street and Marchesseault Street, immediately adjacent to the Plaza Community Center (Biscailuz Building). Constructed in 1926, the three-story building was designed in a Spanish Churrigueresque style by the architecture firm of Train and Williams, established by Robert Farquhar Train and Robert Edmund Williams.

The building features sculptural ornamentation and a Moorish dome of yellow and green tile with a garlanded finial at each corner. Entrance to the building is granted through a full-story paneled wood door, which is topped by an elaborate leaded-glass window and a large trefoil surround. The decorative detailing of the door surrounds is elaborate and the focal point of the design. While the building maintains its integrity on the exterior, the interior was significantly altered in the 1960s, including the removal of architectural detailing and the elevation of the altar onto a large platform.

17. Plaza Substation, 611 North Los Angeles Street, 1903-04 – Contributing

The Plaza Substation is located along the east side of Olvera Street and was constructed in 1903-04 as the first and largest of fourteen substations built to supply electrical power for the Los Angeles Railway Company. Because of the sloping terrain of its site, the brick masonry building is three stories on its Olvera Street elevation (on the northwest) and four stories on its southeast elevation.

Divided into five bays by buttresses, the façade features brick pilasters and a roof supported by elaborate wooden trusses. Rectangular wood-framed windows are set into segmental-arch surrounds, with two banks of clerestory windows. The building's ornamental stepped parapet was removed after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake but restored in 1989-90. In 1978, the Plaza Substation was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with the transportation of history of Los Angeles.

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18. Avila Adobe, 10 East Olvera Street, 1818 – Contributing

Located to the north of the Plaza Substation is the Avila Adobe, which was constructed by Don Francisco Avila in 1818. The one-story adobe building is the oldest existing residence in Los Angeles. At the time of its construction, it featured three-foot thick adobe walls, packed earth floors, and a flat roof sheathed with a mixture of tar, rocks, and horse hair. Wood floors, doors, and window frames were later additions, as was the full-width planked veranda and steps fronting Olvera Street. In 1868 the Avila family vacated the house; in subsequent decades, it was used as a boarding house and eventually an Italian restaurant and hotel. When it was threatened with demolition in the 1920s, Christine Sterling was inspired to restore the building and eventually transform the rest of Olvera Street. It was donated to the State of California when the Plaza area became a state park in 1953 and subsequently has operated as a historic house museum.

19. Avila Annex, 10 East Olvera Street, 1974 – Non-Contributing

The Avila Annex is a one-story, L-shaped building located in the rear (southeast) patio of the Avila Adobe. The building was constructed in 1974 and currently houses park staff offices and restrooms.

20. Zanja Madre, Olvera Street, ca. 1781 – Non-Contributing

Known to be located underneath Olvera Street is a segment of the Zanja Madre, or mother ditch, which is an early water conveyance system initially built in 1781 to divert water from the Los Angeles River to the newly established Pueblo. Originally an open earth ditch, this segment of the zanja was encased by a conduit brick masonry pipe between 1884 and 1888 (Hall 1888).

Numerous historical maps and accounts indicate that the zanja traveled southwest from the river between present-day North Broadway and North Alameda Street to the approximate intersection of West Cesar Chavez Avenue and North Main Street (Ord 1849; Kellehrer 1875; Ruxton 1873). From that point, the zanja traveled south across Olvera Street to the junction of North Alameda Street and North Los Angeles Street and then continued to the southwest, eventually branching into several numbered zanjas.

An archaeological excavation undertaken in 1978 identified a portion of the brick-lined Zanja Madre that appeared to exit from the Avila Adobe property, indicating the alignment depicted in historical maps is indeed correct (Costello and Wilcoxon 1978). While this evidence leaves little doubt that segments of the zanja traverse the boundaries of the district, without additional documentation to identify the resource and its current integrity, it is not possible to include it as a contributing resource at this time.

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21. The Winery, 11 East Olvera Street/845 North Alameda Street, 1870-1914 – Contributing

Located at the northeast end of Olvera Street, the one-story Winery building was constructed in stages between 1870 and 1914. The polygonal brick building was one of several wineries operated by Italian-Americans living in the pueblo area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Presently the building (which was subdivided in 1930) functions as exhibit space, shops, and offices; as well as a restaurant, which is located within the portion fronting Olvera Street.

22. Italian Hall, 644-650 North Main Street, 1907-08 – Contributing

The Italian Hall is a two-story masonry building located at the northernmost end of Olvera Street. Built in 1907-08, the building was the social center for the town's Italian community and used for banquets, weddings and dances. Developer Marie Hammel chose architect Julius W. Krause to design the building, which features yellow-colored brick on the northwest and northeast elevations and unpainted brick on the elevation facing Olvera Street. Sash windows are placed within rectangular and segmental arched openings, and the primary entrance on North Main Street is located under a wrought iron balcony. After shops opened on Olvera Street in 1930, the Italian-American groups began moved towards larger quarters. Current plans call for the upper floor to house a museum on the history of Italian immigrants in Los Angeles.

On the second-story southwestern elevation is the 18 x 80-foot mural, *America Tropical*. The mural was painted by the prominent Mexican artist and activist David Alfaro Siqueiros and is his only surviving public mural in the United States (Poole and Ball 2002:90). When it was completed in 1932, *America Tropical* provoked controversy due to its content, which depicts a Mexican Indian crucified on a double cross beneath an American eagle, with two sharpshooters taking aim at the eagle from a nearby rooftop. Negative reaction to the mural resulted in the mural being partially covered with white paint within a year, and completely covered by the end of the decade. Early conservation efforts began in the 1970s, with substantial steps not occurring until the late 1980s. Over the following two decades, additional research, fundraising, and conservation efforts were carried out, and in 2012 the mural was reopened with a protective shelter and viewing platform, and an interpretative center in the Sepulveda House.

23. Hammel Building, 634-642 North Main Street, 1909 – Contributing

Adjoining the Italian Hall to the northeast and the Pelanconi House and Warehouse to the southwest, the Hammel Building is a one-story brick building constructed in 1909 by developer Marie Hammel. The building features a flat roof, trimmed with a continuous cornice lined with dentils and four storefront openings along its northwest elevation. As originally built, the building housed four light-industrial shops and a partial basement/storage area along Olvera Street. In the 1930s, staircases were added to the southeast elevation to provide access to the building from Olvera Street, and small basements were excavated in the 1940s to provide additional commercial space. A large canopy was constructed on the north end of the building in 2012 to protect the *America Tropical* mural, which is painted on the exposed second story, south

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wall of the adjacent Italian Hall. The protective shelter consists of a wrapped steel-framed canopy and free-standing, angled side panels on the North Main Street and Olvera Street elevations. While this structure is a highly visible addition to the Hammel Building, it is reversible and its design and materials are clearly differentiated from the original building; this alteration therefore has not compromised the building's integrity and ability to convey its period of significance.

24. Pelanconi House, 17 West Olvera Street, circa 1852-57; Pelanconi Warehouse, 630-632½ North Main Street, 1910 – Contributing

The Pelanconi House and Warehouse are located along the west side of Olvera Street between the Hammel Building to the northeast and the Gibbs Brothers Electric Company Building to the southwest. Constructed circa 1852-57, the small 2-story building is one of the first brick buildings in Los Angeles, and the oldest surviving example. The ground floor, or exposed basement, initially housed a wine cellar, and living quarters were located above. The house was built by Giuseppi Covaccichi and purchased by Antonio Pelanconi in 1871, who used the first floor store wine from his winery across the street. Fronting North Main Street, the Pelanconi Warehouse, a brick masonry building, was constructed by the Pelanconis in 1910. The warehouse was connected to the residence in 1930 through the removal of the adjoining wall when La Golondrina Mexican restaurant moved into the ground-floor of the building, which continues to occupy this space.

25. Gibbs Brothers Electric Company, 626 North Main Street, 1919 – Non-Contributing

Constructed in 1919, the Gibbs Brothers Electric Company is a small, one-story brick masonry building sheathed in stucco. It is located between the Pelanconi House and Warehouse to the northeast and the Sepulveda House to the southwest. The building has been significantly altered since its construction, including the installation of modern storefront windows on the primary (northwest) façade, which were in place by 1990. Additional work was performed in support of the development of the *America Tropical* Interpretive Center in 2012, which encompasses the Gibbs Brothers Electric Company Building and the adjacent Sepulveda House. These two buildings were connected through the partial removal of their adjoining interior wall. Additionally, a large double door was installed at the rear (southeast) of the building and a viewing platform was constructed on top of the building.

26. Sepulveda House, 622-624 North Main Street, 1887 – Contributing

The Sepulveda House is a two-story brick building fronting North Main Street. The building was constructed in 1887 by Eloisa Martinez de Sepulveda for commercial-residential use. Designed by architects George F. Costerisan and William O. Merithew, the building displays features of the Eastlake architectural style, an idiom that is not commonly seen in Los Angeles. The Sepulveda House represents the city's transformation from its early Mexican traditions. Architectural details characteristic of this style include two prominent bay windows situated over two individual storefronts, as well as a mansard roof, bracketed cornices, and wrought-iron

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cresting. The Sepulveda House included twenty-two rooms when constructed, with a central breezeway running the width of the building. Possibly used as a bordello in the early twentieth century, it operated as USO canteen during World War II and currently houses the *America Tropical* Interpretive Center.

27. Machine Shop, 10 West Olvera Street, 1910 – Contributing

Located south of the Sepulveda House, the Machine Shop is a narrow one-story brick masonry building constructed in 1910. It has rectangular window surrounds and a flat roof, with a parapet marking the the Olvera Street (southeast) elevation. Originally constructed as a machine shop, the building was used for light industrial functions such as tinsmithing, electroplating, metal patterning, and machining. Two of the three arched openings on the Main Street (northwest) elevation have been in-filled with stucco. The central arch features vertical wood plank double doors with wrought-iron boards. With the transformation of Olvera Street in the 1930s, the primary entrance was shifted to Olvera Street and adapted for use as the Leo Carillo Theatre. Presently, it functions as one of the many commercial spaces along Olvera Street.

28. Jones Building, 608-618 North Main Street, circa 1888 – Non-Contributing

Constructed in circa 1888, the Jones Building is a one-story brick masonry building that originally faced North Main Street (eastern elevation). As built, the flat-roofed building was divided into five individual spaces containing industrial uses, such as plumbing and tin shops, harness and leather shops, and blacksmith shops. Following the transformation of Olvera Street, the primary entrances of the building were reversed to face Olvera Street.

29. Jones-Simpson Building, 103 Paseo de la Plaza, 1894 – Non-Contributing

Located at the southwestern end of Olvera Street, the Jones-Simpson Building was constructed in 1894 for use as a machine shop. The one-and-one-half story brick building features a parapet facing the Plaza that is accented with decorative brick corbelling. In 1960, it was significantly altered through the creation of large-arched windows on the northwest and southeast elevations. In the late 1960s, La Luz del Día Restaurant moved into the building and added a patio area to the southern end of the southwest elevation with a wrought-iron railing and a tiled roof.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration/Settlement
Community Planning/Development
Architecture

Period of Significance

1818-1932

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kysor, Ezra F.
Costerisan, George F.
Merithew, William O.
Edelman, Abraham M.
Morgan, Octavius
Young, Robert Brown

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

As listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District is significant as “the living composite story of Los Angeles from Indian times prior to 1781 through Spanish, Mexican and American periods to become the nation’s largest city on the Pacific basin.” A 1981 amendment to the nomination form added five additional buildings, which reflected the “Americanization” of Los Angeles and the “strong involvement of French and French Canadian settlers in this predominantly Hispanic town of the 1870’s and 1880’s.” Although the 1972 nomination and the 1981 amendment discuss the historical significance of the district, they do so in general terms and do not identify applicable criteria or areas of significance. The current amendment incorporates previous documentation with new information to clearly define the district’s significance in a manner consistent with present-day preservation standards.

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The Los Angeles Plaza Historic District is significant under National Register Criteria A and C for its historical and architectural contributions to the founding and evolution of the original City of Los Angeles. With a period of significance from 1818 to 1932, the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District qualifies under Criterion A as the only remaining resource in Los Angeles that embodies the city's transition from a colonial outpost in the early 19th century to a prosperous, increasingly commercialized/industrialized American metropolis in the early 20th century. The district reflects associations with important events in the areas of exploration/settlement and community planning/development. Buildings within the district document the city's beginnings as a Spanish Pueblo, its growth into the social and financial center of southern California during the Mexican period, and its eventual transformation into a modern American city.

The Los Angeles Plaza Historic District is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Historically significant buildings in the district embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and/or method of construction, ranging in date from 1818 to the 1920s and including Colonial-era adobe, Italianate and Victorian-era commercial buildings, and Spanish Revival styles.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The founding of Los Angeles dates to 1781, when 44 *pobladores* from Sonora, Mexico, accompanied by the governor, soldiers, mission priests, and several Native Americans, arrived at a site alongside the Rio de Porciúncula (later renamed the Los Angeles River; Robinson 1979:238; Ríos-Bustamante 1992). They founded a pueblo called La Reyna de los Angeles, or the town of the Queen of the Angels (Treutlein 2004; contrary to Weber 1980). As a planned pueblo (one of only three in California), four square leagues (about 75 square km, 28 square miles) of land were set aside for the settlement, and included 12 house lots surrounding a common square, or plaza, and 36 fields laid out south of the plaza (Gumprecht 1999; Robinson 1979). The area's rich, well-watered soils created an ideal locale for a town meant to supply livestock and feed to the presidios of San Diego and Santa Barbara, and to serve as a home for retired Spanish soldiers. Initial development of the pueblo also included the construction of an extensive water management system. Water was diverted from the Los Angeles River into a ditch named the Zanja Madre (mother ditch), which in turn fed numerous smaller zanjas, providing water for agricultural and domestic purposes (Newmark 1977). By 1786, the flourishing pueblo attained self-sufficiency, and funding by the Spanish government ceased (Gumprecht 1999).

Following continued flooding of the Rio de Porciúncula, the plaza was relocated to its current location on higher ground in 1818. The newly developed Plaza was the center of the growing community and "became a fashionable area for residential construction; the Carrillos, Sepulvedas, Lugos, Olveras, and other leaders of the community having built their homes there" (National Register of Historic Places:8-3). One of the earliest residences along the Plaza was the Avila Adobe, which was completed in 1818 for the wealthy cattle rancher Francisco Avila using

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adobe bricks and traditional construction techniques. That same year, construction began on a new church, located adjacent to the Plaza. Due to funding issues, however, the Plaza Church would not be completed for several years. Following the church's dedication on December 8, 1822, land to the north and south was consecrated as a Catholic cemetery (de Packman 1944:65; Owen 1960:17) and the first recorded burial occurred on January 6, 1823 (Huntington Library 2006). Prior to this, the pueblo's residents were forced to transport their deceased 9 miles to Mission San Gabriel to receive a Catholic burial.

Meanwhile, Alta California became a state following Mexico's independence from Spain in 1821. In an effort to attract settlers to the region, the Mexican government awarded approximately eight hundred land grants, many of which were developed into cattle ranches, or *ranchos*. A vibrant cattle industry quickly developed, and Los Angeles (and more specifically the Plaza) became the unquestionable center of social, political, and economic activity in southern California (Estrada 2008:48). Roads across the region led to the Plaza, where wealthy *rancheros* came to sell cattle, and attend mass, fiestas, and other social activities (Poole and Ball 2002:15). The Mexican Congress eventually elevated Los Angeles from pueblo to city status in 1835 and declared it the state capital of Alta California (Bancroft 1886; Robinson 1979). The Los Angeles *ayuntamiento*, or city council, had the pueblo's buildings repaired and whitewashed in honor of the occasion to "show its cleanliness, magnificence, and brilliance in such a manner that the traveler who visits us may say, 'I have seen the City of the Angeles'" (Robinson 1979:37).

Under Mexican rule, the population of the Los Angeles nearly doubled, rising from 650 to 1,250 between 1822 and 1845 (Weber 1992). While the majority of the city's new residents were citizens arriving from other parts of Mexico, Los Angeles' agricultural potential also began to attract a growing number of French, Italians, and Americans. Other new arrivals included Native Americans from the surrounding region, who were drawn to Los Angeles following the secularization of the missions in the mid-1830s. Although they enjoyed greater freedoms than they had under the Franciscan padres, their existence continued to be difficult and many were relegated to performing work similar to what they had done at the missions (Poole and Ball 2002:15). As the city and its population grew, agricultural interests were gradually supplanted by more urban industries, with about a third of Los Angeles residents supporting themselves with non-agricultural pursuits by 1836 (Weber 1992).

Two years after the Mexican-American War and five months prior to California earning statehood, the City of Los Angeles was formally incorporated into the United States on April 4, 1850. The transfer to American governance had little immediate effect on Los Angeles; however, the aftereffects of the 1848 northern California Gold Rush gradually brought changes to the social, cultural, and physical makeup of Los Angeles. Economically, the Gold Rush brought new prosperity as the northern demand for beef replaced the earlier hide-and-tallow trade. Socially, the population of Los Angeles further changed following the arrival of miners from the north, including failed Anglo miners and Chinese miners fleeing racial violence. Other new residents included prospectors heading north from Sonora, Mexico, many of whom stopped in Los

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Angeles and never left. So many settled in the area north of the Plaza that it eventually became known as Sonoratown (Estrada 2008:58; Poole and Ball 2002:22).

As the population of Los Angeles grew to over four thousand inhabitants during the 1850s, a number of visual changes occurred at the Plaza (Poole and Ball 2002:23). Wealthy rancheros, such as Iganacio del Valle and Vicente Lugo, constructed new adobes or added second stories to their homes on the east side of the Plaza. To the west, American merchant Abel Stearns (who arrived in Los Angeles in 1829 and eventually became one of the area's wealthiest citizens) constructed a massive-walled home along Main Street that was known as El Palacio (Estrada 2008:58). In 1857, a municipal brick water tank was built at the center of the Plaza and the surrounding area was landscaped with trees, flowers, and foot paths. As evidence of the city's changing demographics, buildings constructed during the 1850s also included two of the earliest brick buildings in Los Angeles, Italian settler Antonio Pelanconi's winery cellar and residence (1852-57), and the Masonic Hall (1858), which was built as Lodge 42 of the Free and Accepted Masons (National Register of Historic Places 1972).

The growing wealth and prosperity of Los Angeles also attracted an increasing number of gamblers, outlaws, and prostitutes, who arrived in the city in the 1850s and 1860s. The resulting vice and violence largely centered on the southeast side of the Plaza on present-day North Los Angeles Street, then-named *Calle de los Negros* (Street of the Blacks), or "Negro" or "Nigger Alley" as known by the Anglo-Americans (Estrada 2008:59). As historian W.W. Robinson writes, "once a street of happy homes, Calle de los Negros, opening into the Plazuela and the Plaza, was... a pandemonium of races, gambling, vice, and crime" (Robinson 1981:61). The crime rate of the city grew exponentially during this period, and vigilante justice and public hangings becoming commonplace. Although many of the wealthy rancheros supported vigilante rule, others condemned these tactics, which were predominantly racially motivated and commonly at the expense of Mexican, Native American, and Chinese inhabitants (Estrada 2008:60; Poole and Ball 2002:26).

Largely the result of persisting violence, wealthy rancheros began to abandon their adobe residences in the 1860s and the Plaza gradually lost its prestige as the economic and social center of Los Angeles. The city's new development extended further to the southwest, and the Plaza came to represent the dividing line between the old "Mexican" city to the north and the new "American" city to the south (Estrada 2008:65-66). In an effort to revive the Plaza area, Pío Pico, the last governor of Alta California and a wealthy land owner, began construction of a new hotel at the corner of Main Street and the Plaza in 1869.

When the hotel was completed the following year, it was Los Angeles's first three-story building, featuring an Italianate design, eighty-two guest rooms, twenty-one parlors, and amenities unrivaled in southern California (Poole and Ball 2002:100). Six months later, the Italianate-style Merced Theater opened next door to the south. As the first building constructed within the city for dramatic performances, the theater enjoyed immediate success (Poole and Ball 2002:102). Although the architecture and purpose of these two buildings symbolized the growing

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prosperity of Los Angeles, violence continued to plague the Plaza area, and by the early 1880s, both the hotel and theater had fallen on hard times.

The Southern Pacific Railroad extended its line from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 1876, signaling the beginning of a new era for Los Angeles. Newcomers poured into the city, nearly doubling the population between 1870 and 1880. The completion of the second transcontinental line, the Santa Fe, took place in 1886, causing a price war that drove fares to an unprecedented low, including a promotional one-way ticket from Kansas City that sold for one dollar. More settlers continued to head west and the demand for real estate skyrocketed. As real estate prices soared during the boom of the 1880s, land that had been farmed for decades outlived its agricultural value and was sold to become residential communities (Dumke 1944; Fogelson 1967). The large ranchos that surrounded the city were each annexed, subdivided, and developed in turn. Los Angeles' population more than quadrupled in a decade, from 11,183 in 1880 to 50,395 by 1890 (Dumke 1944; Fogelson 1967; Meyer 1981; Robinson 1979; Wilkman and Wilkman 2006).

Successive waves of immigration from the east, as well as overseas, transformed the demographics of the city from predominantly Californio and Native American prior to the American takeover in 1848 to predominantly Anglo-American thereafter. Census data, which lump Californios and Anglo-Americans into the category "white," show a steady decline in the "Indian" population from 1860 to 1880, despite a dramatic increase in total population. The population of "Colored" people increased slowly during this period, while that of Asians (primarily Chinese and Japanese) exploded, particularly in the 1860s and 1870s. Virtually no Asians resided in Los Angeles prior to 1848, and by 1850, only two Chinese men were listed in the census data. Intolerance and bigotry abounded during the late nineteenth century, both officially and unofficially, with California passing laws that targeted fugitive slaves (in 1852) and Chinese immigrants (1882). Chinatown, a crowded and dangerous ghetto located just east of the plaza, was burned twice—in 1871 and again in 1887 (Gibson and Dietler 2012:21–22; Greenwood 1996:9–12).

Meanwhile, much of the Plaza and surrounding area had fallen into disrepair by the late 1880s as the city's commercial and social center shifted south. Eloisa Martinez de Sepulveda was one of the few members of the original rancharo families that remained at the Plaza past the 1880s. In 1887, she built a residence and boarding house on Main Street that was designed in an Eastlake-style common on the East Coast, but rarely seen in Los Angeles (Poole and Ball 2002:121). As the Plaza area approached the turn of the century, a number of new ethnic groups arrived and began to establish residences and businesses. Adobes along Calle de los Negros were razed in 1887 and replaced by buildings specifically constructed for Chinese businesses and tenants (Poole and Ball 2002:105-106). These included the building at 425 North Los Angeles Street (ca. 1898), the Hellman-Quon Building (1900), and the Garnier Block (1898). The latter of these was designed in a Richardsonian Romanesque style, and following the destruction of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, it remains one of the oldest Chinese buildings in a metropolitan California area (Poole and Ball 2002:104). Italian immigrants further established themselves with the expansion of the Winery (1870-1914), the construction of the Italian Hall (1908), and

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the addition of the Pelanconi Warehouse (1910). French immigrants also developed businesses along Main Street including Garnier's construction of the Plaza House in 1883 and Lucien Napoleon Brunswig's early involvement in and 1907 acquisition of the former Vickrey-Brunswig Building for his growing drug company.

The area north of the Plaza also began to change following a number of new developments in the late-eighteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Along Main Street, a shift towards light industry included the construction of a number of shops to house machinists, plumbers, blacksmiths, tailors and other tradespeople. These included the Jones Building (ca. 1888), the Simpson-Jones Building (1894), and the Hammel Building (1909). In addition, the Plaza Substation was built in 1904 to provide power to the Los Angeles Railway Company's yellow electric streetcars as part of the growing transportation system. The Olvera adobe, which was constructed in between 1830 and 1845, was demolished in 1917 and replaced by the Plaza Methodist Church and adjacent community center in 1926. The church was designed in a Spanish Churrigueresque style and built to combine Hispanic tradition and Protestant Heritage (National Register of Historic Places). The community center featured a minimal art-deco design and housed the United Methodist Church Conference Headquarters, with child day care, social services, and a clinic. The property was renamed the Biscailuz Building in 1965.

Despite these new developments, the condition of the Plaza continued to deteriorate into the 1920s. The Avila Adobe, the Pelanconi House, and the Sepulveda House were by this time functioning as short-term boarding houses and brothels; because of Prohibition, businesses such as the Winery were only able to produce soda and communion wine (Poole and Ball 2002:44). In 1926, while visiting the Plaza, Christine Sterling saw a condemnation notice posted on the Avila Adobe. Originally from Oakland, California and recently widowed, Sterling became the local champion of saving the building. She enlisted Harry Chandler, publisher of the *Los Angeles Times*, and began a public campaign to raise awareness about the history of the adobe and the threat of its demolition. With the additional assistance of Avila family descendants, Sterling was able to save and restore the adobe, subsequently turning her attention to Olvera Street and the adjacent buildings (Poole and Ball 2002:47-48).

Although Olvera Street was historically little more than an unpaved alleyway, it retained a number of extant historic buildings and Sterling envisioned transforming it into a "Spanish-American social and commercial center, a spot of beauty as a gesture of appreciation to Mexico and Spain for our historical past" (Poole and Ball 2002:50). Influenced by Helen Hunt Jackson's extremely popular 1884 novel *Ramona*, this vision of the past was largely based on a romanticized version of California's history and life on the missions and ranchos. Sterling returned to Chandler, as well as other civic leaders such as Lucien Brunswig, and succeeded in securing funding and subsequently creating the Plaza de Los Angeles, Inc., to oversee the development of Olvera Street. Construction began in 1929 and included the closure, grading, and paving of Olvera Street, and the renovation of historic buildings such as the Pelanconi House and Sepulveda House for new uses. The Mexican marketplace opened to great fanfare in 1930, featuring largely Mexican-American-owned restaurants and shops (Poole and Ball 2002:53).

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As Olvera Street flourished over the following decades, a number of changes occurred to the Plaza and surrounding area. Old Chinatown to the east was demolished in the 1930s for the construction of the nearby Union Station train terminal (1938). Many of the subsequently displaced Chinese-American residents moved north of the Plaza to eventually establish the new Chinatown in the old Sonoratown district, whose residents had largely left for neighborhoods in East Los Angeles by this time (Poole and Ball 2002:55). Another loss to the Chinese community was the Lugo House, an adobe built by Vicente Lugo on the east side of the Plaza circa 1838, which had been occupied by Chinese American businesses and tenants since the late 1880s. After the building was threatened with demolition in 1950, a group of Chinese American merchants raised thousands of dollars in an attempt to save the building, but were ultimately unsuccessful, largely because of Sterling who declared the "Chinese must go" and that the building's eventual removal in 1951 was necessary to "clean up the area" (Poole and Ball 2002:55). Two years later in 1953, the Plaza area was further affected by the construction of U.S. Route 101 to the southeast, which not only resulted in the physical separation of the Plaza from the rest of downtown Los Angeles, but also in the demolition of two bays of the Garnier Building.

Nonetheless, the entire Plaza area secured recognition in 1953 as a state historic park. In 1972, the district was first listed in the National Register of Historic Places, in a nomination that was amended in 1981 to include additional buildings. Beginning in 1974, the park operated under a joint-powers agreement between the State of California, City of Los Angeles, and County of Los Angeles. (In 1987, the California State legislature enacted a statute that transferred the state-owned property within the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park to the City of Los Angeles, thereby ending the tripartite agreement that created the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park.) Through this time, the district has remained largely intact and continues to convey the story of Los Angeles's founding and early transformation from an agricultural outpost to an increasingly important and prosperous metropolis.

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National Register of Historic Places

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9.5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

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Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 11 | Easting: 385550 | Northing: 3768950 |
| 2. Zone: 11 | Easting: 385740 | Northing: 3768780 |
| 3. Zone: 11 | Easting: 385920 | Northing: 3769100 |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Los Angeles Plaza Historic District is roughly bounded by W. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue (north), N. Los Angeles and N. Alameda Streets (east), W. Arcadia Street (south), and N. Spring Street (west). These boundaries are also depicted on the accompanying map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

As identified on the 1981 nomination update, the boundary of the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District is centered on the Plaza and largely defined by the surrounding streets, historical property lines, and the physical changes that have occurred after the period of significance. On the south, the boundaries are dictated by the clear division of U.S. Route 101, extending slightly to the northwest to Republic Street to exclude a surface parking lot located at the northern corner of the intersection of Arcadia Street and North Main Street. The western boundary follows the historical alignment of New High Street, which defined the development of buildings such as the Vickrey Brunswig and Plaza House, before the

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boundary extends back along Paseo Luis Olivares to North Main Street to exclude a surface parking lot north of the Plaza Church property. East Cesar Chavez Avenue provides a clear division between the district and newer development to the north. The eastern boundary extends south along Alameda Street to North Los Angeles Street and eventually U.S. Route 101.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Steven Treffers/Architectural Historian and Debi Howell-Ardila/Sr. Architectural Historian

Organization: SWCA Environmental Consultants

Street & number: 150 South Arroyo Parkway, 2nd Floor

City or town: Pasadena state: CA zip code: 91105

E-mail: streffers@swca.com

Telephone: (626) 240-0587

Date: January 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Los Angeles Plaza Historic District

City or Vicinity: Los Angeles

County: Los Angeles

State: California

Photographer: Steven Treffers/SWCA Environmental Consultants

Date Photographed: May 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0001; Biscailuz Building (#15) and Plaza Methodist Church (#16); view looking north.
- 2 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0002; Pico House (#7); view looking south.
- 3 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0003; Old Plaza Church (#3) and Cemetery (#4); view looking north.
- 4 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0004; Masonic Hall (#9), Merced Theater (#8), and Pico House (#7); view looking northwest.
- 5 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0005; Vickrey Brunswick Building (#6) and Plaza House (#5); view looking north.
- 6 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0006; Plaza (#1); view looking southwest.

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- 7 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0007; Hellman-Quon Building (#13) and Plaza Firehouse (#14); view looking southeast.
- 8 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0008; Olvera Street; view looking southwest.
- 9 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0009; Olvera Street; view looking northeast.
- 10 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0010; Jones-Simpson Building (#29), Jones Building (#28), Machine Shop (#27), and Sepulveda House (#26); view looking northeast.
- 11 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0011; Hammel Building (#23) and Italian Hall (#22); view looking northeast.
- 12 of 12 CA_Los Angeles_Los Angeles Plaza Historic District_0012; Old Plaza Church (#3) and Rectory (#2); view looking southwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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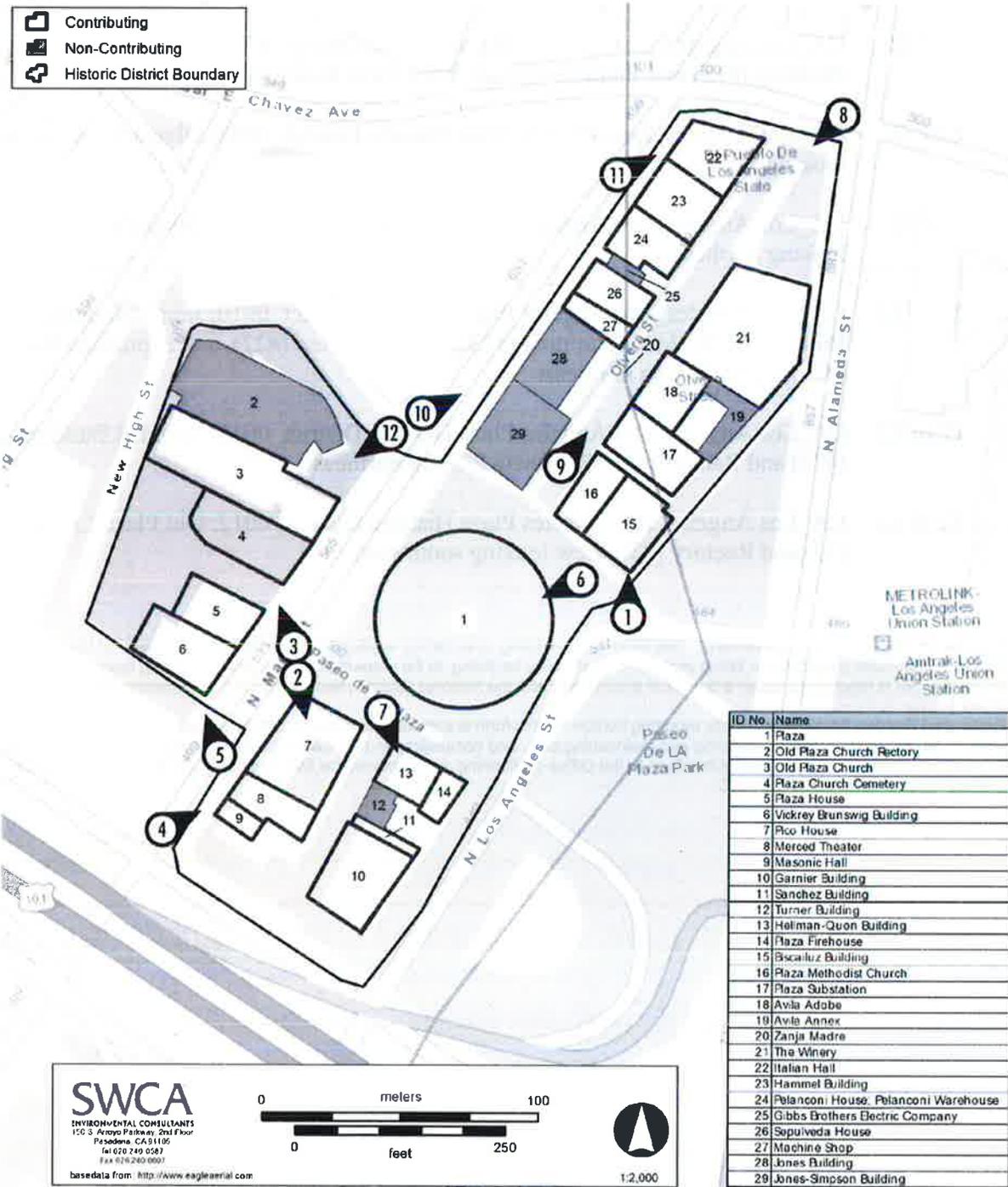


Figure 1. Sketch map and photo key.

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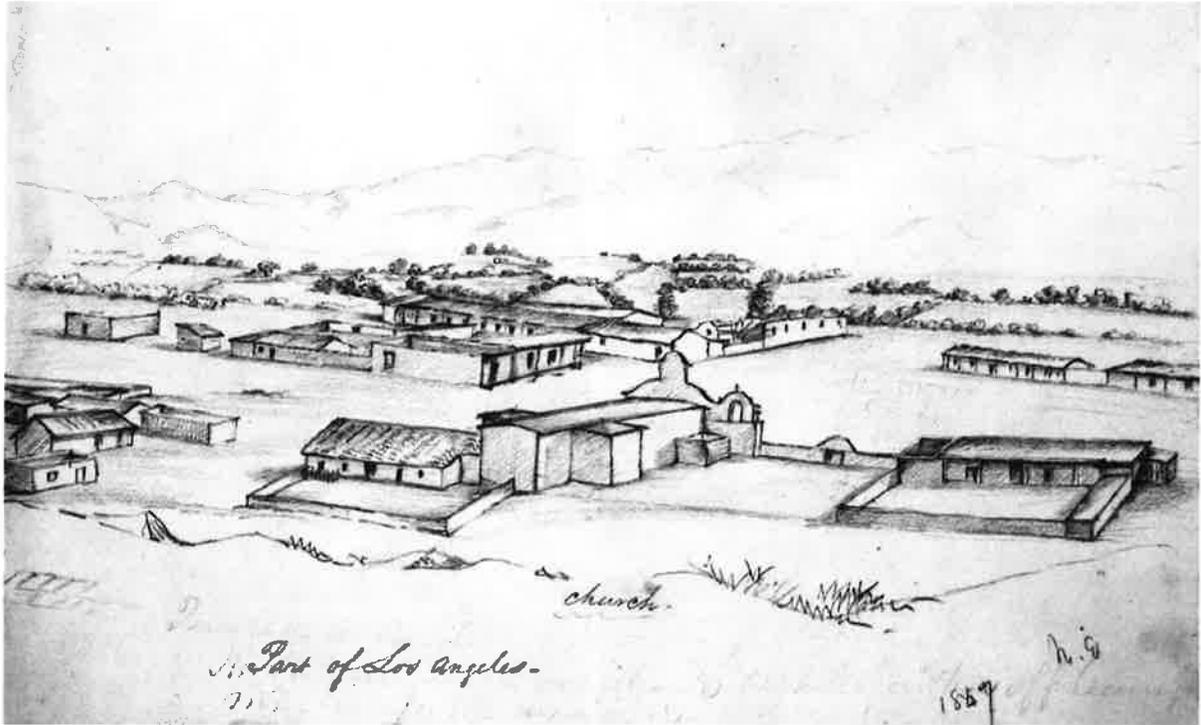


Figure 2. Earliest known drawing of La Plaza, 1847 (Source: Title Insurance and Trust and C.C. Pierce Photography Collection, USC Libraries).

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Figure 3. Earliest known photograph of La Plaza, circa early 1860s (Source: Braun Research Library Collection, Autry National Center).

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Figure 4. The Plaza as it appeared in 1890. (Source: Los Angeles Public Library).

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Figure 5. Aerial view of La Plaza and surrounding buildings (Source: Water and Power Associates).

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Figure 6. Pico House circa 1920 (Source: Water and Power Associates).

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Figure 7. Olvera Street prior to improvements, circa 1920 (Source: Water and Power Associates).













National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811

January 21, 1971

Mrs. Sally Marusin
National Register of Historic Places
801 19th Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mrs. Marusin:

We are returning herewith a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places, covering the Plaza Area Historic Landmarks at the Los Angeles Pueblo. This nomination is one of those previously submitted in August, 1970 and subsequently sent back to us for corrections or additional data.

I hope the forms and attachments are now suitably prepared and the data adequate.

Sincerely,

Cliff M. Bisbee
Cliff M. Bisbee
State Park Historian II

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811

December 31, 1971

Dr. William J. Murtagh, Keeper
National Register
801 19th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Murtagh:

Resubmitted for your consideration are forms covering nominations of El Pueblo de Los Angeles to the National Register of Historic Places. These were returned to us several months ago for additional photographs and minor corrections. Presumably, these are now complete in accordance with your request.

May we ask that whatever assistance you may be able to provide be directed toward getting this before the judging committee as soon as possible. Without your help, the development and restoration plan for El Pueblo de Los Angeles could be seriously delayed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director

L-3/7

Enclosure





SAM YORTY
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

August 15, 1972

United States Department of
the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

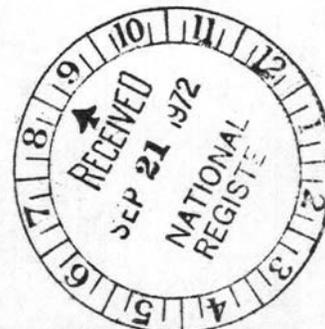
As Mayor of the City of Los Angeles and on behalf of its nearly three million citizens, I herewith transmit this application to qualify our Plaza area for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

While such a letter as this may not be a prescribed part of the application procedure, I submit it as evidence of the deep concern we of this City feel toward preserving what remains of our historic past.

The wording of the application speaks for itself and details, I believe, substantial data to support our request. As further evidence of my great personal interest in this project, I have directed the assignment of an experienced Senior City Planner on a full-time basis to prepare a zoning plan overlay for the entire Plaza area. I will then ask the City Council to approve this overlay as a means of protecting the area from further commercial encroachment in perpetuity, and as a blueprint for future restorative efforts.

While the area proposed in the application for listing does not include the Fort Moore Memorial site, the two sites are contiguous and the Fort Moore monument provides a permanent buffer to prevent encroachment. (See pictures opposite).

Any student of our nation's history would have to concede the Fort Moore area underscores the national significance historically of this entire area. Stephen Foster, first Alcalde of Los Angeles and a scout with the Mormon Battalion tells of the arrival in Los Angeles of that Battalion after completing the longest march ever made by American soldiers in the entire history of our nation.



United States Department of
the Interior
August 15, 1972

"We had no waving flags, only one snare drum and a fife played by a tall Vermonter and stout...English drummer," Foster recalled.

"They struck up the Star Spangled Banner as we passed the Government House and kept it up until orders were given to break ranks and stack arms. Then a loud hurrah from the ragged soldiery. The long and weary march over mountains, plain, and desert of 2200 miles was over."

While Fort Moore was being built to consolidate the position of United States troops in the newly-taken area, troops building the Fort camped where the old Federal Building now is located between Main and Spring Streets, an area also contiguous to the proposed area covered by this application.

I stress the point that nearly two hundred years of history has been written in or near the proposed area for which a listing is sought, and we feel the site fully merits the national official recognition we seek for it as a historical site.

I strongly urge your most favorable consideration of this application.

Yours very truly,


MAYOR

SY:mt1



1/10/73

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE CALIFORNIA

NOV 3 1972

Date Entered

Name

Location

Los Angeles Plaza Historical Group

Los Angeles
Los Angeles County

Also Notified

Hon. Alan Cranston

Hon. John V. Tunney

Hon. Edward R. Roybal

Director, Western Region

PHR NRowland:mm 11/6/72

State Liaison Officer

Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr.

Director, Department of Parks &
Recreation

State Resources Agency

Post Office Box 2390

Sacramento, California 95811

HARRISON A. WILLIAMS, JR., N.J., CHAIRMAN

JENNINGS RANDOLPH, W. VA.
CLAUDINE BELL, R.I.
EDWARD M. KENNEDY, MASS.
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WALTER F. MONDALE, MINN.
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WINSTON L. PROUTY, VT.
PETER H. DOMINICK, COLO.
RICHARD S. SCHWEIKER, PA.
BOB PACKWOOD, OREG.
ROBERT TAFT, JR., OHIO
J. GLENN BEALL, JR., MD.

STEWART E. MCCLURE, STAFF DIRECTOR
ROBERT E. NAGLE, GENERAL COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
LABOR AND PUBLIC WELFARE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 11, 1972

Dr. William J. Murtag, Jr.
Keeper of the National Register
Department of Interior
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

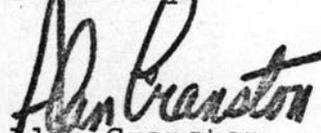
Dear Dr. Murtag:

The El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park Commission has submitted an application to the National Park Service for designation of the Los Angeles Plaza Historic Park in the National Register of Historic Places.

This historic area is the birthplace of the City of Los Angeles and includes Olvera Street, the Plaza Catholic Church, Pico House, the Garnier Building, Avila Adobe, the Sepulveda House, the Pelanconi House, the Masonic Hall, and the Merced Theater.

The City of Los Angeles supports the application and the California Department of Parks and Recreation has approved and forwarded it to Washington, D.C. I would appreciate your early and favorable action to list the Los Angeles Plaza Historic Park in the National Register.

Sincerely,


Alan Cranston

1020

Draft

FNP:JLRogers:rls 10/19/72

H34-PHR

Senator Alan Cranston
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Cranston:

Thank you for your letter of August 11 to Keeper of the National Register William J. Murtagh. The nomination forms for the Los Angeles Plaza Historical Group have been received and have been reviewed by the professional staff of the National Register.

In order for this nomination to meet the criteria for the National Register, the State has been requested to make a slight revision in the boundary of the district being nominated. We have been advised that the necessary documents will soon be on hand. When they arrive we shall give prompt attention to the processing of this nomination.

We share your concern for the protection of our historical heritage, and appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Director

cc: Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr., Director, Department of Parks & Recreation, State Resources Agency, PO Box 2390, Sacramento, California 95811 w/cy inc
Director, ~~Mid~~Western Region w/cy inc
LOS - w/cy inc
LI - Mr. Winge
PHR - w/cy inc

FNP:JLRogers:rls 10/19/72

BASIC FILES RETAINED IN PHR

H34-PHR

OCT 31 1972

Hon. Alan Cranston
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Cranston:

Thank you for your letter in behalf of the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park Commission concerning designation of the Los Angeles Plaza Historic Park in the National Register of Historic Places.

The nomination forms for the Los Angeles Plaza Historical Group have been received and have been reviewed by the professional staff of the National Register.

In order for this nomination to meet the criteria for the National Register, the State has been requested to make a slight revision in the boundary of the district being nominated. We have been advised that the necessary documents will be returned soon. When they arrive we shall give prompt attention to the processing of this nomination.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert M. Utley

Director

Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

cc:
Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
State Resources Agency
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811)w/c of inc.
Director, Western Region)w/c of inc.

FNP:JLRogers:maj:10/26/72

cc:
LI - Mr. Winge
PHR }
LOS }

(BASIC FILES RETAINED IN PHR)

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

P.O. BOX 2390
SACRAMENTO 95811



October 20, 1972

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
U.S. Department of the Interior
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Attention Jerry Rogers

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

We submit the enclosed aerial photograph, newspaper articles, and revised map, "Scheme II of El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Monument" to accompany material previously sent for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John H. Michael".

John H. Michael, Supervisor
History Preservation Section

B-5/5

Enclosure
GR-16/7



EDWARD R. ROYBAL
20th DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2404 RAYBURN OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

LOS ANGELES OFFICE:
ROOM 7110, NEW FEDERAL P.O. BLDG.
300 N. LOS ANGELES STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
PHONE: 688-4970

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:
FOREIGN OPERATIONS
TREASURY-POSTAL SERVICE-
GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 27, 1972

Dr. William J. Murtag, Jr.
Keeper of the National Register
U.S. Department of Interior
1100 "L" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Dr. Murtag:

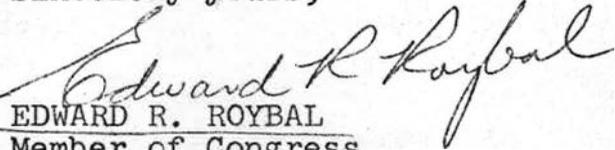
This is written to express my interest in the approval of the Los Angeles Plaza Historic Park for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

As you know, this area is the birthplace of the City of Los Angeles and includes many buildings of historical significance. Inclusion in the Registry would make this park eligible for supplemental Federal funding that, when combined with other resources, would insure that the area would become a true "urban park."

Additionally, plans to fully restore and enlarge the entire Park area have been proposed and I feel confident that this program would stimulate interest in the revitalization and redevelopment of the surrounding property.

In view of the historic and other varied concerns involved in the approval of official park status, I urge your assistance in expediting this matter.

Sincerely yours,


EDWARD R. ROYBAL
Member of Congress

ERR:jw

11/6
Draft

FNP:FBSarles:rls 10/31/72 (Rewritten FNP:JLRogers:rls 11/6/72)

H34-PHR

Hon. Edward R. Roybal
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Roybal:

Thank you for your recent letter endorsing the nomination of the Los Angeles Plaza Historical Group to the National Register of Historic Places.

Technical matters have necessitated our returning this nomination to the State three times for correction. However, we are pleased to inform you that the problems have been resolved and that Los Angeles Plaza was entered in the National Register on October 3, 1972.

We appreciate your interest in the National Register program.

Sincerely yours,

Director

cc: Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr., Director, Department of Parks & Operation,
State Resources Agency, PO Box 2390, Sacramento, California 95811 w/cy inc
LOS - w/cy inc
LI - Mr. Winge
PHR - w/cy inc

FNP:FBSarles:rls 10/31/72 (Rewritten FNP:JLRogers:rls 11/6/72)

BASIC FILES RETAINED IN PHR

11-3-72

H34-PHR

NOV 15 1972

Hon. Edward R. Roybal
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

LA. CO.

Dear Mr. Roybal:

Thank you for your letter endorsing the nomination of the Los Angeles Plaza Historical Group to the National Register of Historic Places.

We are pleased to inform you that the problems have been resolved and that Los Angeles Plaza was entered in the National Register on November 3.

We appreciate your interest in the National Register program.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert M. Utley

Director

cc:
Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
State Resources Agency
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811) w/c of inc.

Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

Director, Western Region)
LI - Mr. Winge)
PHR)
LOS)

FNP:FBSarles:JLRogers:1jp:11-11-72

(BASIC FILES RETAINED IN PHR)



*El Pueblo de Los Angeles
State Historic Park Commission*

ONE HUNDRED CALLE DE LA PLAZA, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

TELEFONO 628-7164

December 12, 1972



Dr. William T. Murtog, Jr.
Keeper of The National Register
U. S. Department of Interior
1100 L Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Re: El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park -
Clairfication of our application for inclusion
in the National Register

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Homer Burnaby
Edwin L. Harbach
Hubert F. Laugharn, Jr.
Joseph A. Vargas
David A. Workman
Frank W. Ramirez (Alternate)

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

Hernando Courtright
John Anson Ford
Ignacio E. Lozano, Jr.
Francis J. Montgomery (Alternate)

CITY REPRESENTATIVES

John P. Elsbach
Mrs. A. E. England
Bishop John J. Ward
Mrs. Vassie D. Wright (Alternate)

GENERAL MANAGER

William J. Probert

Dear Dr. Murtog:

It has been noted that a stenographic error has occurred in
submitting our recent application. Please refer to:

Page 1, Paragraph 2; titled "LOCATION"; subheading
"Street And Number":

PRESENTLY READS:

"North Main St. - Between Arcadia St. & Sunset Blvd. -
Alameda and Spring Street"

PLEASE CHANGE TO READ:

"Generally bounded by: Spring Street; Macy Street;
Alameda Street; and Arcadia Street," as delineated
on map corrected and revised December 7, 1972.

Enclosed is a corrected copy of a map of "Pueblo de Los Angeles
State Historic Monument"; Boundary, dated September 21, 1972 and
revised December 7, 1972.



Page 2
Dr. William T. Murtog, Jr.
December 12, 1972

The only change in this boundary map is the correct name titling of Macy Street which begins at Spring Street. This map supercedes the map previously submitted. There are no other changes, either in area, or structures.

Thank you for all your previous considerations.

Very truly yours,


William T. Probert
General Manager

WTP/mlc

Enclosure

cc: Mr. John Michaels, Supervisor
History Preservation Section
Sacramento, California

Mr. Ron Ellensohn, Administrative Assistant to
Mayor Sam Yorty
Los Angeles, California

H34-PHR

JAN 15 1973

1-12-73
C. Shull

Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr.
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
State Resources Agency
Post Office Box 2390
Sacramento, California 95811

Dear Mr. Mott:

We have received a letter from Mr. William T. Probert, General Manager of the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park advising us of a technical error made in the boundary description for the Los Angeles Plaza Historical Group.

The revised boundary description has been noted in the file on the Los Angeles Plaza Historical Group. In accordance with established procedure, we would appreciate an official letter from the State Liaison Officer whenever corrections or revisions need to be made on National Register forms. Since this matter involves only a change in the name of a street rather than anything substantive, we are happy to accept Mr. Probert's letter recommending the correction.

Sincerely yours,

LS1

Jerry L. Rogers
Chief of Registration
National Register

cc:

William T. Probert, General Manager, El Pueblo de Los Angeles, State
Historic Park Commission, 100 Calle de la Plaza, Los Angeles, California
w/cy inc
Director, Western Region w/cy inc
LI - Mr. Winge
PHR - w/cy inc
FNP:CShull:lmp

1-10-73

BASIC FILES RETAINED IN PHR



El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park

One Hundred Paseo de la Plaza, Los Angeles,
California 90012 Telephone (213) 628-7164

August 29, 1977

Dr. William Murtaugh
Keeper of the National Register
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Dr. Murtaugh

As the new Park Director of El Pueblo de Los Angeles, a historic park of the State of California, I would like to bring to your attention a project which may be affected by the National Register of Historic Places.

Our Park encompasses 44 acres located next to the Civic Center in downtown Los Angeles. Most people know it as "Olvera Street", because that part of the Park has been open to the public for many years.

We are now vigorously pursuing a capital improvement program which will open a new public area and up-grade the existing one, providing for both the functional needs and the historic purposes of the Park. Buildings which have never been open to the public will be stabilized, authentically decorated and have historic displays introduced. A great deal of thought went into the development of this program and much devoted effort is going into its fulfillment.

I understand that the entire Park is listed on the National Register, and I believe that we need your permission to permanently remove one of the structures from the site. (Please forgive my ignorance about this as I am only now establishing communications with the divisions which give advice on such matters.)

Specifically, we wish to demolish the Plaza Substation, located at 12 Olvera Street. There is a particular reason why we want to demolish the building now. An adjacent project--the Placita de Dolores--will

Dr. William Murtaugh
August 29, 1977
Page 2

soon be constructed by the Department of Public Works (any delay will mean a loss of funding). If we cannot complete our demolition first, we will eventually be faced with entering over the newly constructed Placita, and doing substantial damage to its brand new garden, walkways, sprinklers, and walls. (it is now a parking lot.) The only other approach is through Olvera Street itself. Therefore, it is rather urgent that this letter convince you of our needs, and we ask your indulgence if we "oversell" a little.

We have four reasons for wishing to remove the Plaza Substation.

1. There are at least three other such trolley car power stations in Los Angeles:
 - a. Huron Substation on the southwest corner of Avenue 28, Los Angeles (the oldest--built in 1903).
 - b. Soto Substation - 560 Soto Street, Los Angeles.
 - c. Slauson Substation - 5843 Towne Avenue, Los Angeles.

In fact, thorough and scholarly research has already been done on the subject. I have taken the liberty of including the historical survey prepared for this structure by our park historian, Dr. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr. He concludes that the Plaza Substation has no significant historical or cultural merit.

2. The structure is condemned, shows many wall cracks, and is located adjacent to heavily used Olvera Street on one side, and the oldest structure in the City on another. This fact is crucial in an area of many earthquakes.
3. The structure is outside the time-frame of our interpretive era, and, because of its size, detracts from the other structures which are within that time-frame. A new structure to be built in its place will be significantly smaller and architecturally compatible with the rest of the Park.

Our architect for the new structure, Mr. Walter Benedict, has considerable experience in, and allegiance to, historic redevelopment. His plan results in a lower profile structure which does not dominate Olvera Street and is in harmony with other older structures in the Park. Its style includes many features common to the earlier era and we expect Park visitors to accept it as another old building. It will include both commercial operations (pottery-maker, glass blower, leather goods, etc.) and historic exhibitions.

Dr. William Murdaugh
August 29, 1977
Page 3

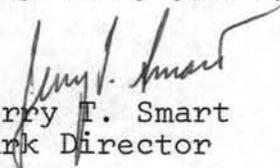
4. When the Park was originally placed on the National Register in 1970, the Plaza Substation was not even felt worth mentioning in five single-spaced pages of building descriptions as having historical significance (see statement of significance in the Nomination Form dated August 3, 1970).

There are no plans to demolish any other buildings within El Pueblo de Los Angeles. All other efforts are aimed at restoring and preserving existing buildings. The Plaza Substation, however, is not safe, not unique and not constructed within our Park's historic interpretive period. Please authorize its removal as soon as possible so that we can avoid damaging the adjacent Placita de Dolores project.

Incidentally, during demolition and construction, an historical archaeologist will supervise all earth disturbances. We will not be destroying items of historic significance during this job.

Thank you for your attention and consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,


Jerry F. Smart
Park Director

JTS:ec
Enclosure

cc: Dr. Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.
Mr. John C. Horan
Mrs. Jean B. Poole
Mr. David Rosenthal
Mr. Martin Romero
Mr. Walter Benedict



DATE 9.2.77

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL 2:30 AM

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)

Bill Siddell
historian

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

916-322-8702

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

El Pueblo de Los Angeles MTA
Substation

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

memo of agreement signed for adjacent
EDA funded, Placita de Dolores project.
w/ ACHP Mark Sauer 206-442-4195
(contact)

Bldgs. in park at State owned but facilities
are on long term lease to S.A. fr. State.
Smart is City employee
Roads owned by City

Mike Berman

303-234-4946

how well

Project being funded by
Park trust fund

(check w/ Peter Smith)

Park property - no taxes

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Kulczycki

TITLE

arch.
historian

OFFICE

NR

Sheffield 10/18
LEBORNE 10/28
Cole for
Herrington
11-8-77

NOV 10 1977

H32-880

Mr. Jerry T. Smart
Park Director
El Pueblo de Los Angeles
State Historic Park
One Hundred Paseo de la Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Smart:

Thank you for your letter concerning the proposed demolition of the plaza substation, a structure within the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Although permission is not required from the National Register to remove, alter, or demolish a National Register property, we appreciate being informed of the proposed changes to the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District. When there is Federal licensing or funding involved, however, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1522 K Street NW., Suite 430, Washington, D.C. 20005, must be given an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed undertaking.

The enclosed National Register procedures, (36 CFR Part 60), explain the process for removing properties from the National Register. As you will note in section 60.17, properties may be removed only when they have ceased to meet the criteria for the National Register: when the qualities which caused them originally to be nominated have been lost or destroyed or upon proof that an error in professional judgment or a procedural error has been made in the nomination process.

You may wish to consult the California State Historic Preservation Officer, Dr. Knox Mellon, Office of Historic Preservation, California Department of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento, California 95811, concerning the demolition of the plaza substation.

Enclosed is information describing the Tax Reform Act of 1976. While we do not believe the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District qualifies as depreciable property at this time, we would like you to be aware of the tax disincentives which apply to the demolition of certified historic structures.

We appreciate your interest in the National Register program.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) William J. Murtagh

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Knox Mellon, SHPO California w/cy of inc.
Regional Director, Western Region w/cy of inc.
001 Reading File
880 - w/cy of inc.

FNP:J Kulczycki:yvr 10/17/77:523-5483

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN 880

4/26/78

4:10

AM
PM

TELEPHONE REPORT

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)

AARON GALLUP

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

CALIFORNIA SHPD OFFICE

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

FORMER MTA POWER GENERATING STATION - LOS ANGELES PLAZA HISTORIC DISTRICT

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

HE WANTS A STATEMENT ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THE BUILDING IS WITHIN THE N.P. HISTORIC DISTRICT. HIS OFFICE HAS SAID THAT IT IS; THE DEPARTMENT AND STATE SAYS IT ISN'T. THE BASIS FOR SAYING THAT IT ISN'T IS BECAUSE IT IS NOT DESCRIBED IN THE NOMINATION. THE BUILDING IS SCHEDULED FOR "EARLYING UP" BY PARKS. SOME OF THE LOCALS ARE UPSET.

4/28/76

SPOKE WITH HIM AGAIN AFTER REVIEWING FILE AND CONTROL SHEETS.

MY OPINION WAS THAT THOUGH IT IS LABELED ON THE SEPT. 21 1972 MAP AS AN EXCLUSION IT IS CLEARLY WITHIN THE DASHED LINE WHICH IS THE INCLUSIVE BOUNDARY. THE 1972 CONTROL SHEETS INDICATE THAT THEY WERE ASKED TO REDUCE THE BOUNDARIES ~~TO~~ (OF THE NOMINATED PORTION) TO EXCLUDE PARKING LOTS AND AID AREAS WHERE THERE WERE GOING TO BE RECONSTRUCTIONS.

~~THE~~ (SEE NOVEMBER 1969 MAP). THOUGH THE BUILDING IS NOT MENTIONED IN THE NOMINATION IT IS INCLUDED IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS IN ~~THE~~ AERIAL SHOTS.

SINCE THIS IS A VERY HOT ISSUE IN THE STATE ~~WHERE~~ I SUGGESTED HE HOLD OFF ON A DEFINITIVE DECISION UNTIL I HAVE A CHANCE TO DISCUSS IT WITH LEBOVICH. I SUGGESTED A CONTINUATION SHEET FROM THEM ^{DESCRIBING THE OTHER BUILDINGS INCLUDING THE MTA} WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. HE SAID IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY TOUGH TO DO. THE GOVERNOR HAS SAID HANDS OFF.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

BRUCE MAC DONALD

TITLE

ARCH. HIST.

OFFICE

DAHP.

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

POST OFFICE BOX 2390

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95811



November 3, 1981

Ms. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
440 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Ms. Shull:

We submit the enclosed revisions to the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District (El Pueblo de Los Angeles), listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 3, 1972. This historic district is located in Los Angeles County in the 25th California Congressional District. This property is publicly owned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Mellon".

Dr. Knox Mellon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

11/16/81

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL TO: FROM (Name)

Steve Mikese

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

CA. SHPO

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Los Angeles Plaza Hist. Dist - amendment

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Item 2 p. 1 - note, these buildings are not "contiguous" to the district as noted. The 5 buildings are located within the N.R. district. This was an editing error. This amendment is designed to expand the description & statement of significance for these already listed buildings.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Patrick Andrews

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT:

FROM: Nick DeGioppo

DATE: 4-25, 4-26

ADDRESS: CA SHPD office

PHONE: 916.322-8703

STAFF MEMBER: Joy Bush

DIVISION:

REPORT:

Asking if any ^{boundary} revision made?

I read him letter of Dec. 1972 -

said nothing else that I could find.

Called back



AT THE BALL — Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bennett attend the Governor's Ball in costumes she made.



SCRIP—Jack Ryan and Mrs. Cheryll Clarke buy scrip for Governor's Ball from Ofelia Barrios, right.
Times photos

PLEASURE IN OLD PLAZA

LOS ANGELES TIMES - OCTOBER 2, 1972

Heritage Ball Returns to Its Origins

BY SHARON FAY KOCH
Times Staff Writer

It took five years for Los Amigos del Pueblo's Heritage Governor's Ball to come home to the place where it all began—the Old Plaza—birthplace of Los Angeles.

But it was worth the wait.

Now that the Plaza's

square is closed off from traffic on two sides and landscaped like an open-air patio around the central kiosk-bandstand — what better place to hold a benefit whose proceeds go to the much needed restoration of the 42-acre state historic park's buildings like the Avila Adobe in adjacent Olvera Street?

That's what people like Wyland Kersten concluded Friday night.

"This is our heritage. It should be restored. Cities across the nation have their heritage squares. Why shouldn't we?" he asked as he sat before an al fresco beef dinner sipping a mission wine.

Then if that were not

enough to inspire there was that historic skyline: the illuminated, exteriorly restored 19th-century Pico House—the city's first major hotel—with the 20th-century's illuminated City Hall tower in the background. A visual history lesson. And no one had to point out that it would be

Please Turn to Pg. 11, Col. 1





CHARRO—Larry Kirwan and Mrs. Anderson Zellers are extended greetings by charro, Frank Caloca, at the Heritage Governor's Ball Friday at the Old Plaza. Times photo by Larry Bessel

Continued from Third Page
 nice if the interior of Pico House were restored, too. That was obvious to all eyes.

Not only did the weather cooperate Friday night ("Wouldn't you know that a man planned this party!? It's a perfect evening," noted Mrs. Charles Dru-ten), but instead of the first estimate of only 150, 500 people showed up to support the ball.

Distaff Help

Part of the reason for the guest list confusion—and the fact that invitations didn't get out until two weeks before the ball—was because men *were* the initial planners for the party. Women, the committee had thought, should be "decorative hostesses" this year. And a group, headed by Mrs. Gerald Evans Porter, was even dubbed the "Satin Pillow" committee.

The logistics of planning a ball, plus unexpected business trips and other misfortunes on the part of the men—proved that distaff help was needed. And so women like Mrs. Porter and Mrs. William Holzhauser got off their pillows at the last minute.

The Heritage Ball Returns to Origins



Thus by 7 p.m. Friday—as workmen were finishing tenting in three sides of the square and Wayne Andrade and Art McKee were finishing an 11th-hour floral job—margueritas were already being served to first arrivals from part of the 60-foot mahogany bar that came around the Horn a century ago.

The bar, a gift to Los Amigos, was temporarily set up on the Calle de Plaza which was also populated by several mounted charros—or Mexican cowboys. They're the fellows whose talented horses can do everything from complicated lasso steps to a dance to "Hello, Dolly!"

Then there were their young female counterparts, the Escaramuza Charras — eight young women who left their horses home but who wore gaily colored costumes especially made for the ball. And the Mexican-American script girls. And the Mariachi Uclatan as well as the Estrelita Fiesta Dancers. Topped by CBS' affable newsmen Mario Machado to commentate it.

Set the Scene

And if that weren't enough to set the scene—many guests accepted the ball's invitation to don Early California dress instead of black tie.

And that meant everything from elegant charro uniforms like those worn by Hal Ramser, Fritz Burns, John D. Roche, Hubert Laugharn Jr., John Bowles and Hernando Courtright (who even wore his gun) to put-ons like early California mix and match from the closet.



CIVIC CENTER NEWS

PUBLISHED FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE LOS ANGELES CIVIC CENTER

Established Since 1972

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

KEEP AMERICA GREEN. PROMOTE ENVY.

OCTOBER 10, 1972

Local Notes

DO YOU WALK A TIGHTROPE, juggle, dance anything from ballet to soft shoe, sing, have a "combo," or are an expert snake charmer? All types of individual and group performers looking for a chance to be seen and heard, gain experience or break in an act, are invited to audition for the Bureau of Music of the Los Angeles Municipal Arts Department on November 4, 1972, at the Parker Center Auditorium, 150 North Los Angeles Street. For an audition appointment, phone Mrs. Mowen at the Bureau of Music, 485-2433.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS for constructing a \$5,626,000 County Library headquarters building were approved by County Supervisors and referred to the Los Angeles County-Library Headquarters Building Corporation for approval, adoption and advertisement for bids. According to Supervisor Ernest E. Debs, approval of plans and specifications by the Corporation's Board is required before further action can be taken. The new three-story facility will be built at 733 North Spring Street.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS ASSOC. will hold its October meeting on October 11, 1972, at the Rodger Young Auditorium. The speaker will be Larry Job.

THE CIVIC CENTER NEWS has expanded. Besides the 34 yellow distribution boxes found near all government buildings, we are now distributing in or near cafeterias and snack-bars. You can get a copy at the first floor snack bar in Parker Center, at the snack bar in City Hall South, at both the third and sixth floor snack bars in the New Federal Building, and the third floor snack bar in the County Hall of Administration. We also have a yellow box opposite the tenth floor cafeteria in City Hall and Martin's Coffee Shop on the fifth floor of the U.S. Courthouse has a stack. (At the end of the month Martin's will be moving to larger and plusher quarters in Suite 424.) Also, to end the debate, like the best things in life, the Civic Center News is free.

FREE, GUIDED, WALKING TOURS of El Pueblo State Historic Park are available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 10 A.M. - 11 A.M. - 12 A.M. - 1 P.M. - and 2 P.M. Tours begin at the Visitors Center, 100 Calle De La Plaza. Guests will be escorted through the plaza church, down through Olvera Street, into the Avilla Adobe and across the plaza to the newly restored Pico House and the Garnier Building. Advance reservations for groups is requested. For more information call 628-1274.

OVER THE WEEKEND Chinatown began its 61st celebration of the forming of the Republic of China (Taiwan.) Called the Ten-Ten Celebration because it took place on the tenth day of the tenth month. Friday night, the first night of celebration, there was a traditional Chinese parade in which two sleeping "lions" awake from a long sleep. They meet, fight, and then either make friends or stay enemies. If they make friends, it will be a very good year for all of us. Luckily, the two on Friday night managed to make friends.

SWAMI VISHNU-DEVENADA, world famous teacher of Hatha and Raja Yoga, will be in Los Angeles at the Ambassador Hotel and Health Spa, 3400 Wilshire Blvd., from October 16 - 20, 1972. Each evening he will give one of a series of Yoga lectures at 8 P.M. preceded by a Yoga class at 6:30 P.M. For additional information, please call 387-7011. Prices: Classes \$2.00 each, Lectures \$1.00 each.

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Upper floors of City Hall East under construction. City Departments have started to move into lower floors.

City Hall East Opens

Mayor Sam Yorty recently announced that City Hall East the 20-story municipal office annex adjoining the main City Hall, received its first tenants, the weekend of September 30.

First to move into this latest addition to the City's Civic Center were the Bridge and Structural Design Division and the Sewer Design Division of the Department of Public Works' Bureau of Engineering. They will occupy space on the sixth floor.

Other groups of city offices, departments and other agencies will be moved into their assigned spaces in City Hall East every two weeks after the two Design divisions have been housed. Fire Department headquarters and administrative office, the City Administrative Officer and his staff, the Data Services Bureau, the Community Analysis Bureau, and a number of Bureaus of the Department of Public Works will be among the new tenants.

Construction of City Hall East was begun in late 1969 by the prime contractor, Montgomery Ross Fisher, Inc., of Century City, under a contract from the board of Public Works, now headed by President Ernest O. Webber. The building was designed by architects

J. E. Stanton and William F. Stockwell.

City Hall East is as an air-conditioned 20-story steel frame building with an exterior of pre-cast concrete frames. It rises 279 feet from the first floor level on Main Street (14 feet higher on the Los Angeles Street side) and is connected to the City Hall by a concrete, windowed, lighted and covered pedestrian bridge at the third floor level.

It is topped by a 10,000-square-foot heliport which will accommodate several parked helicopters while providing for takeoffs and landings.

Two murals (still curtained), one above the Main Street entrance and the other at the Los Angeles Street doorway, depict the ethnic and national groups that have contributed to the growth and development of Los Angeles as the nation's third largest city, and as a business, financial, industrial, educational and cultural center. Each mural is 16 feet high and 35 feet long.

The Fire Department Command and Control Center will occupy one of the underground levels. Plans include provision for a future Police Department Dispatch Center.

Space also is being provided in City Hall East for the operation of an Emergency Operating Center with room for the coordination of all Civil Defense activities.

City Hall East, when completed, will be approximately 80 per cent the size of the main City Hall, and will cost an estimated \$38,500,000.

City Hall East, the Mayor said, extends about 60 feet below Main Street and will be directly connected with the Los Angeles Mall and its shopping and dining and other centers, and with the series of parking levels. The Mall which will stretch north to the Santa Ana Freeway, and will constitute almost an enclave in the Civic Center, is scheduled for completion in 1973.

When completed, City Hall East will constitute one unit of the Los Angeles Administrative Center which will house all Civic Center municipal offices in three buildings -- City Hall, City Hall East and City Hall South -- conveniently joined by bridge, tunnels, pedestrian shopping centers, and a beautiful park enhanced by fountains, landscaping and numerous works of art.

Centurions help kids

Local businessmen and police officers have formed a group to help children who need it in the Central City area. Called the Central City Centurions, the group mainly helps children from the Alpine Queens area and the William Mead Projects, both located just north of the Civic Center. Businessmen from all over the Central Business District have joined the group, however. They donate their time and their money to this State Chartered Non-Profit Organization.

Though sponsored by businessmen, the idea was formed and the impetus to the project was given by policemen. Policemen do coaching of the various teams, counseling of parents and children, and organizing and coordinating of all youth activities. According to Sergeant Mike Greenwood, Community Relations Officer, Officers Randy Carter, Robert Sanchez,

and Chick Went give unselfishly and willingly of their time and varied talents.

The Centurions are looking for new members. A few months ago they had 35 members. They now have 50 and are hoping for 100 by the first of the year. Anybody who is interested can join. Members report tremendous satisfaction from working with these 9 to 18-year-olds.

One memorable day for Centurions and children as well was last summer when they all decided to go to the beach. The Centurions treated the kids to anything they wanted, besides donating a day of their time. Everyone came home exhausted and happy.

If you are interested in giving or getting pleasure, you can contact Mickey Schwartz of Arro Salvage. He is president of the Centurions. Or you can contact Sergeant Mike Greenwood at Parker Center.

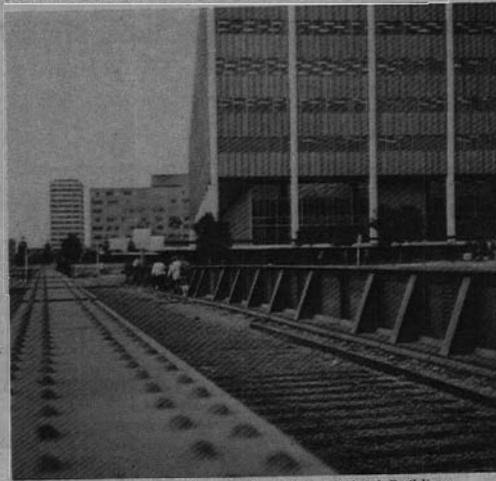
Typical activities include a tour of the Museum of Science and Industry at Exposition Park. It was held for 80 underprivileged young people from Chinatown. Six officers led the tour on their off-duty time. This was the first trip to the Museum for the 80 youngsters, and they all enjoyed it.

Another activity sponsored by the Centurions is a camping trip into the San Bernardino Mountains. This year 75 kids from the central city area went under the supervision of 15 dedicated Los Angeles Police Officers.

The Main activities sponsored by the Centurions are team sports. There is boys' flag football, girls' volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' softball, and boxing. The girls' volleyball team placed first in the city last year.

There are two clubs, a boys' club in the William Mead Projects and the Alpine-Queen Club at Our Lady Queen of Angels School. The Boys' Club holds its meetings at Ann Street School on Friday afternoons for two hours. The club consists of 20 youths who live in the William Mead Projects. The purpose of the club is to promote a better understanding among youth and the police. These youths are given lectures on juvenile laws, drug abuse, bicycle safety and are given the opportunity to express their feelings on any subject they choose. The members range in age from 9 to 13.

The Alpine-Queen Club holds its meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at Our Lady Queen of Angels School in the evening. The purpose of the club is to meet once a month and exchange general information, form athletic teams and sponsor a Christmas dance. The meetings usually last two to three hours. The club has a membership of 20 youths, 13 through 17.



Freeway Bridge just north of New Federal Building.

BRIDGE TO STAY

For all of you who have been asking us to find out what is happening with the abandoned railroad bridge over the freeway adjacent to Aliso and Alameda just north of the new Federal Building, don't panic. Whatever they are going to do, it's not going to be soon. And it may be never. So you can still take your shortcut to work.

The interview we had or tried to have with Southern Pacific was one of those curt yes-no affairs. For your own information part of it went like this:

"Are you going to tear down the bridge?"

"No."

"Why not? You took up the track?"

"We can't see that the expense to the taxpayers is justified."

"Then why did you take up the tracks?"

"Because they weren't being used."

"But isn't that also an expense to the taxpayers?"

Silence. And because we're not angry, pushy interviewers yet, and we knew he saw his illogical answer, we said "I guess you must be using the tracks somewhere else."

"Yes."

The man was very nice. We just took him by surprise. Maybe you can find out more. Call Southern Pacific at 624-6161 and ask for engineering. See what you can find out



CIVIC CENTER NEWS

671-6409



Officers Randy Carter, Chick Went, and Robert Sanchez with girls volleyball team

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SPOTLIGHT EL PUEBLO FIRE HOUSE

If you had walked into the El Pueblo Fire House in any year from 1898 through 1959 you would have been doing something no man had ever done before.

Because in those 61 years the Fire House was either a saloon, a hotel, or a drug-store.

The Fire House itself was Los Angeles' first fire station and was built in 1884, remaining in operation until 1897. Then, after being used for other purposes until 1959, the station was restored to its present condition in 1960.

Today it houses some beautiful, antique fire fighting equipment including a Chemical Company engine which holds 100 gallons of water. The water from the Chemical Company was



If Mr. Jonathan A. Kite walked up to the eighth floor of the County Hall of Administration Building, and you walked up to the ninth floor, would you be higher than A. Kite?

instantly ready for use. Previously, with the old steam engines, it took six minutes to raise sufficient pressure to get water to the hoses. If you had a 5-minute fire, you were in trouble.

Next time you're over by the plaza, maybe after a Mexican lunch in Olvera Street, drop in to see the Fire House. They've got

numerous action pictures of fires and fire engines on the wall, plus all the old equipment.

Ask the caretaker to tell you about the old days in Los Angeles. His stories are fascinating. Spend a little time. Your boss won't mind if you take an hour and a half lunch break. He's probably an old fire horse himself.



Fire Engine No. 1 in El Pueblo Fire House.

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WE GOOFED. In the September 26, 1972, issue of the Civic Center News, we had a story entitled Sunday Jaunt: Orcutt Ranch Park. As numerous callers informed us, we forgot to tell you where the place was. It's located at 23600 Roscoe Blvd., Canoga Park.

JUSTICE ANNEX TO BE DESTROYED

County Supervisors have awarded an \$84,687 contract to the Cleveland Wrecking Company of Los Angeles for demolition of the Hall of Justice Annex, 330 North Broadway, Supervisor Ernest E. Debs announced today.

The awarded low bid is 32.5 percent under the County Engineer's final estimate of \$125,600.

Plans provide for demolition and removal of the existing seven-story reinforced concrete building, necessary excavation, grading, paving and construction of new reinforced concrete retaining walls, chain link fencing and appurtenant work.

Debs said the project will provide twelve public parking spaces and approximately 3,600 square feet of new paving restricted to Sheriff's bus parking in the existing Sheriff's sally-port, which adjoins the Hall of Justice.

Work should be completed within 210 calendar days from date of execution of the contract, Debs added.



Trying to keep pace with modern trends, folksinger Johnn Cash has changed his name to Johnny Master Charge.

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PLAZA HOPES FOR NATIONAL LISTING

Mayor Sam Yorty said today he hopes the U.S. Department of the Interior will list the City's historic Plaza area, birthplace of Los Angeles, in the National Register of Historic Places.

Such a listing would pave the way for Federal funding to complete the restoration of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Area.

Yorty said that he was "encouraged" by recent State of California endorsement of an application to qualify the Plaza for listing in the National Register, adding that the action by the State Department of Parks and Recreation was the "last of many hurdles" in his long-standing efforts to seek national historic recognition for the founding site of the City.

Yorty revealed that he had transmitted a documented application to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, to have the Plaza included in the National Register, which includes more than 1,100 listings of properties of national, State and local significance.

"As further evidence of my great personal interest in this

project, I have directed the assignment of an experienced Senior City Planner, on a full-time basis, to prepare a zoning plan overlay for the entire Plaza area. I will then ask City Council to approve this overlay as a means of protecting the area from further commercial encroachment in perpetuity, and as a blueprint for future restorative efforts," the Mayor said.

Yorty pointed out that while the area proposed in the application did not include the Fort Moore Memorial, the two locations are contiguous and would provide a permanent buffer to prevent encroachment.

"Any student of our nation's history would have to concede the Fort Moore area underscores the national historical significance of this entire area," Yorty explained.

He recalled the dramatic history of the area, noting that a Mormon battalion, accompanied by Stephen Foster, the City's first mayor, arrived at the historic site after completing the longest march, some 2,200 miles, ever made by American soldiers in the history of our nation.

CRIMINAL COURT BUILDING TO GET BULLETPROOFING

County Supervisors today awarded an \$81,000 contract for construction of security screens in the new County Criminal Courts Building, Supervisor Ernest E. Debs announced today.

Three bids were submitted, ranging from a high of \$109,700 to the awarded low bid.

Plans provide for the construction of steel-framed, laminated glass and plastic bullet-resistant security screens across the full width of three trial court-

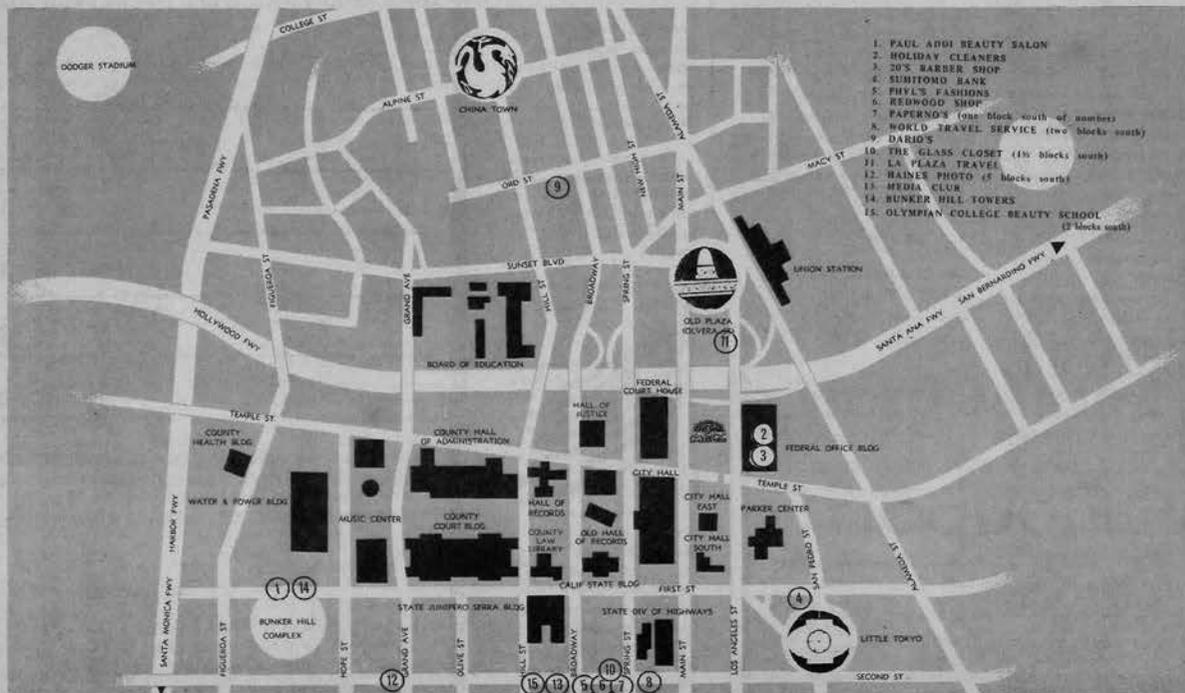
rooms. Partition doors will be security controlled by remote controlled electric strikes, and existing doors to trial courts will be equipped with remote controlled electromagnetic locking devices.

Debs said these maximum security measures are necessary to separate spectators from trial participants in highly controversial trial cases.

Completion of construction will be 120 calendar days from the date of the notice to proceed.

MAP OF CIVIC CENTER

Location of Civic Center News Advertisers



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Prepared
by
Doyce B. Nunis, Jr.
December 5, 1971

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THE PLAZA SUBSTATION

Preface

The full history of the Plaza Substation probably will never be written. The reason for this is twofold. First, buildings which serve a living purpose usually leave behind a substantial historical legacy. This legacy is found in newspaper coverage; published sources--such as memoirs and recollections, monographs and articles; and, fortunately, on occasion a body of manuscripts. Buildings, however, which serve in a service capacity, especially those which are buried within the overall assets of a corporation, seldom receive more than passing notice. In essence, service buildings rarely leave behind them an historical legacy of sufficient dimension to detail with exactitude their history. What one finds is that the corporation is more important historically than any specific service building belonging to it. Second, in the case of the Plaza Substation, those corporate records which did exist relating to the structure--as an asset--have been destroyed.¹ That loss throws a cloud over any effort to present a full and final statement on the Plaza Substation.

With this as an understanding, what follows is an attempt to present what is known about the Plaza Substation. At the same time, a number of questions remain unanswered with little or no prospect that they ever will be resolved. The paucity of surviving information tells us a few things, but not everything.

* * * * *

Historical Background

The tangled history of early electric railway transportation in Los Angeles up to 1895¹ has been extensively treated. Since the concern

here is with the Plaza Substation in the El Pueblo de Los Angeles State Historic Park, discussion will be directed specifically at the historical background which relates to that service structure.

In 1895 the Los Angeles Railway Company was chartered "to succeed to the property and franchises" of the Los Angeles Consolidated Railway, a company formed by Moses H. Sherman and Eli P. Clark several years previously. The entire assets of the Sherman-Clark bankrupt enterprise were taken over and immediate plans were made for the electrification of the cable lines. Approximately 108 miles of tract was involved in the purchase, which amounted to \$4,000,000. The new company president was Thomas Brown, a San Francisco financier.

In the wake of the establishment of the new transportation company, efforts toward expansion and modernization were mounted. Three years later, in 1898, the firm was completely reorganized, and through purchase and amalgamation the Los Angeles Railway Company was enlarged to include the Main Street Railway, the Agricultural Park Railroad, the San Mateo Street Railway and the San Pedro Street Railroad. This new company actually marks the debut of Henry E. Huntington's activities in street-railway businesses in Southern California. Within a year the Los Angeles and Pasadena Electric Railway was added to the expanding lines.

Among the companies merged or acquired by the Los Angeles Railway Company in 1898, one in particular should be noted. The Main Street Railway--not to be confused with the Main, Fifth and San Pedro Street Railway Company--was franchised on May 11, 1897 to John C. Lynch, of San Francisco. His company was authorized to construct and to operate a line beginning at Main Street opposite the Plaza; hence on the south side of the Plaza to Los Angeles Street; then south along Los Angeles Street to First; from there east to San Pedro Street, then south to South Park Avenue [now called Avalon Blvd.] to Slauson Avenue. Operatio

commenced on August 1, 1898, but only on San Pedro Street between Fifth and Thirteenth Streets. The remainder of the proposed line was still uncompleted when it was acquired by the Los Angeles Railway Company, October 1, 1898, with final conveyance dating March 11, 1899. ⁶

At the outset of the reorganized Los Angeles Railway Company, headquarters were established in the Wells Fargo Building in San Francisco. Huntington served as the first president. His tenure would be a long one. By 1901 the assets of the firm, stock and bonded indebtedness each amounted to \$5,000,000. ⁷ In 1902 Huntington moved to Los Angeles and resided there for the remainder of his life (although he died in Philadelphia in 1927). His son, by his first marriage, Howard E. Huntington, became general manager of the company in 1904. It was reputed that ~~Henry~~ ^{Henry} Huntington owned 55% of the capital stock, while the "syndicate" owned the balance. ⁸ Because of Huntington's bold plans for expansion in the face of pressed economic times, the latter group sold their interests to the Southern Pacific Railroad Company. ⁹

On the eve of Huntington's removal to Los Angeles from San Francisco he bought into the relatively unimportant local line, the Pacific Electric Railway Company. Thus beginning in 1902 he commenced the development of two interrelated but distinct corporate transportation systems. Because he owned both an intra-city transportation system as well as extensive ^{interurban} ~~interurban~~ properties, in 1901, "with a view to consolidating all the street railways in and around Los Angeles," the Pacific Electric was incorporated. ¹⁰ The latter company by 1903-1904 was owned by Huntington, who controlled 50% of the stock, and the Southern Pacific which controlled the balance. Huntington, however, retained majority control of the Los Angeles Railway (55% to 45% for the Southern Pacific). Thus, Huntington dominated and controlled the Los Angeles Railway.

Company, while the Pacific Electric was governed by a board of directors.
11

Throughout the decade, 1901-1911, Huntington was the major force in building and providing transit services to Los Angeles and Southern California. His unique position of strength in the Los Angeles Railway Company and the Pacific Electric insured a "mutuality" of interests and cooperation as the two firms continued to expand their field of operations. As an indication of the complexity and scope of transit operations, Pacific Electric also acquired the Los Angeles Interurban Railway Company which coordinated its activities with the Los Angeles
12
Railway Company. Another aspect of the complexity of management was a third Huntington enterprise of enormous consequence to the two transit companies, his vast landholdings. He became "the greatest
13
single landowner in Southern California."

The expanding Huntington transit activities required ever increasing demands for electrical power. To insure a ready supply, Huntington developed power and electric companies to serve that end. These were controlled by the Los Angeles Railway Company. Service was also supplied to the Pacific Electric. The success of the two companies was accelerated by Huntington's power investments.

The Pacific Light and Power Company was incorporated in March 1902. Capitalized at \$10,000,000, the company was formed by absorbing the San Gabriel Electric Company. The latter company had a water power generator in Azusa, a steam generator in Los Angeles, and a power station in San Antonio Canyon. It owned sixty-three miles of trans-
14
mission lines as well as distribution lines in Los Angeles. Within a year, controlling interest in two other electrical companies was
15
acquired, followed by three more by 1907. At the same time, construction was commenced on a 10,000 horse-power generating plant on the
16
Kern River and a 20,000 horse-power steam generator at Redondo Beach.

In January 1910 the company was reincorporated and the Domestic Gas Company of Los Angeles [Southern California Gas Company], which owned the City Gas Company, was purchased.

Expansion of transit lines, requiring a ready electrical supply, lead to the construction of a number of substations to provide the electrical requirements of the various lines operated by both the Los Angeles Railway Company, the Los Angeles Interurban Railway Company, and the Pacific Electric. The Plaza Substation was one of those facilities constructed to serve that power demand. But before turning to the Plaza Substation, it is important to trace the final corporate genealogy of the Los Angeles Railway Company, which owned and operated the Plaza Substation.

Apparently unhappy with the involvement of the Southern Pacific Railroad Company as a minority owner of the Los Angeles Railway Company and as joint owner of the Pacific Electric, Huntington moved to clarify the corporate situation. He relinquished his 50% interest in Pacific Electric to the Southern Pacific. In exchange the Southern Pacific traded its 45% interest in the Los Angeles Railway Company. Huntington thus became sole owner of the ^{reorganized} Los Angeles Railway Corporation. In the bargain he retained the Los Angeles City Railway (which was organized in 1910 to build extensions) and the Pacific Light and Power Corporation (including control of the Southern California Gas Company). The Southern Pacific received the Pacific Electric system, the Los Angeles Interurban Railway Company, and the Los Angeles and Redondo Beach Railway Company. The following year, 1911, an additional sixty-three individual lines controlled by other companies merged to form the Pacific Electric Railway.

Regardless of the separation of Huntington's interest, the Los Angeles Railway Corporation and the Southern Pacific-controlled Pacific Electric Railway Company continued their intramural cooperation.

For example, in August 1923 they entered partnership in the Los Angeles Motor Bus Company with headquarters in the Pacific Electric Building. It was a harbinger of death for the electrified rail transport activities of both companies. However, there was little alternative. When a group of eastern capitalists petitioned the Los Angeles City Council for thirteen franchises to operate a bus system, the Los Angeles Railway and the Pacific Electric threatened to terminate their electrical transit systems if the requests were granted. Faced with such threats and fearful that others would follow suit, having won the first challenged, the two companies moved to inaugurate motor bus service themselves, both separately and jointly. On May 7, 1923, the Board of Public Utilities approved the initial operations for bus service by the Los Angeles Railway and granted it permission to join with the Pacific Electric in joint operations. The Los Angeles Railway commenced bus service in early June and the two companies launched their joint motor service in August.

On Huntington's death in 1927, George J. Kurhts succeeded to the presidency of the Los Angeles Railway Corporation. At his death, April 1, 1932, Samuel H. Haskins, senior partner in the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, followed. He had served for thirty years as the attorney for Huntington's many interests. The fourth president, Lucius S. Storrs took Haskins' place, November 1, 1936. His tenure was followed by P. B. Harris who became president on May 1, 1939. He would preside over the company's corporate demise.

On January 10, 1945, American City Lines, a subsidiary holding company of National City Lines, a Midwest corporation, took over the Los Angeles Railway Corporation. Purchased on December 4, 1944, for a payment of about \$13,000,000 to the Huntington estate, the American City Lines acquired all the Los Angeles Railway Corporation's transit assets. It christened the new company the Los Angeles Transit Lines.

The key to the transaction was that the newly styled Los Angeles Transit Lines was bent on motorizing the transport system. At the time of the transfer of ownership, the Los Angeles Railway Corporation had 1,034 streetcars and 531 buses in operation. Immediately, the Los Angeles Transit Lines placed an order for an additional 237 buses. The new president, Ralph Fitzgerald, had, with his four brothers, built his financial career in the bus business, commencing with a small operation in Minnesota that blossomed into a giant nationwide bus corporation. That experience sealed the doom of electrified rail service. Gradually the shift was made to motor trolleys and buses. But streetcars were not abandoned outright. Indeed, on those lines retained efforts at modernization through the introduction of streamline cars was made.

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Parallel to this development, the Pacific Electric was having its troubles. Beginning in the late thirties, the company began to cut back on its ^{service} because of lack of volume. After an extensive study by the California Railroad Commission, the Pacific Electric commenced to eliminate much of its service. Between 1935 and 1941 service was discontinued on a number of lines, retaining only "the high-density traffic lines" in tact. World War II years stabilized the situation, but peace brought further losses. The end result was that by 1950 "all remaining passenger service was abandoned except to Long Beach and San Pedro, and to Bellflower, Hollywood, and Burbank." The end was near.

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23

In 1954 the Pacific Electric Railway Corporation sold its passenger lines to the newly formed Metropolitan Coach Lines. The Metropolitan decided to convert existing lines into bus service. Efforts to carry the conversion through ran into difficulties. The State Commission refused to sanction replacement of rail service by buses on all lines except the Hollywood and Burbank. An impasse was reached.

At the same time the Los Angeles Transit Lines ran afoul of the Federal government. A Federal Grand Jury, sitting in Los Angeles, indicted the company for violations of the anti-trust laws. When the criminal aspects of the case were settled, civil matters clogged the local transit scene.²⁴

Through the enactment in 1957 of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority by the State legislature, a solution for public transportation in the greater Los Angeles area was found. On April 1, 1958, the Authority purchased the Metropolitan Coach Lines (formerly the Pacific Electric) and the Los Angeles Transit Lines (formerly the Los Angeles Railway Corporation).²⁵ It *thus* returned to single management the transportation system which was first shaped and developed by Henry E. Huntington in 1901.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority proceeded to complete the task started by the Metropolitan Coach Lines. It gradually abandoned all former Pacific Electric rail service. The same decision was applied to the rail lines still in operation under the Los Angeles Transit Lines. On March 31, 1963, the last streetcar service in Los Angeles ceased operations.²⁶ It was "Die Day in Los Angeles."²⁷

But the corporate genealogy does not end there. In 1965 the Southern California Rapid Transit District replaced the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority.²⁸ The RTD, in essence, completely realized Huntington's motivating dream expressed in 1901 "with a view to consolidating all the street railways in and around Los Angeles" into one unified system. The RTD fulfilled that expectant dream on a scale even Mr. Huntington could not and did not accomplish--all of Southern California, *but it was through buses, not electric railways.*

The Plaza Substation

As the Los Angeles Railway Company's services expanded, Huntington had to provide it with electrical power. This meant the acquisition of property and the construction of electrical power stations. By 1904 the company had already in operation two such stations, one called University Substation, which began operations in 1903; the other called the Huron Substation, which began operations either in 1903, but certainly by 1904.¹ The University Substation was situated at 736 West Santa Barbara Avenue. It no longer stands. The Huron Station was situated on the southwest corner of Avenue 28 and Huron. It still stands. Thus to it must go the accolade as being the oldest surviving substation belonging to the Los Angeles Railway Company.²

These two pre-Plaza substations, however, were not adequate for the company's need. As a step to provide power needs in and around the Plaza area, the Los Angeles Railway Company purchased from Mrs. Luisa Olvera de Forbes the property upon which would be constructed a power substation in December 1903.³ Construction of the building followed. Whether it was designed by an architect is not known. *It was* ~~was~~ *like a structure* ~~the others~~ *which* were undergoing construction at the same time. For example, a new car barn was ordered built on a site at Sunset and North Broadway on August 12, 1904. The site was to be cleared of all the "old adobe houses" and the buildings would follow the "Mission lines of architecture."⁴ An examination of surviving photographs indicates that all of the facilities built during the decade 1901-1911 followed this same type of style.⁵

As to the precise date when construction began on the Plaza Substation, nothing is presently known.⁶ It no doubt followed shortly

after the acquisition of the property site. As to the precise date when the structure was completed, the best guess would be about 1905.⁷ This is known: in 1906 two motor generators were installed which had a capacity of 1000 kw power each. The following year, 1907, a third of similar size was added.⁸ No additional equipment was added to the Plaza Substation until 1920. In that year two rotary converters with a capacity of 1500 kw each were added. This brought the station's capacity to 6000 kw. Unlike some of the company's substations, the Plaza Substation never was automated. It remained throughout its service career a manual station.⁹ One distinction it had: it produced more power than any of the other Los Angeles Railway's substations. However, it was not the largest. That honor fell to the Melrose Substation at 644 North Kingsley Drive which was built much later and which no longer stands. The Melrose facility totaled 31,921 square feet, as compared to the Plaza's 8345 square feet. Nor was the Plaza the most valuable. That distinction was also held by the Melrose Substation which was appraised at \$58,900; as compared to the Plaza's appraised value, \$45,300. However, the Plaza's land was appraised at a higher square^{foot} market value than Melrose, \$5.417 per square foot, compared to \$1.846 per square foot.¹¹

At the time of the sale of the Los Angeles Railway Corporation to the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority in 1958, the Plaza Substation was given a market value of \$45,300.¹² This was for the land and building. By that date equipment had been removed. When the Plaza Substation ceased to function as a service unit is not clear. No doubt it had been closed prior to the evaluation survey and the equipment liquidated.

It has been reported that Mrs. Christine Sterling was watchful on the matter of what was to become of the Plaza Substation. It appears

that she was promised that should the property be placed on the market, it would be made available to the Olvera Street Corporation. After her death, it is reported that the Historical Society of Southern California, in the person of Frank B. Putman (now deceased), continued to be watchful on this same matter. ¹³

Nothing was done about the disposal of the property by the Los Angeles Transit Lines. Thus the property was in the assets acquired by the Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority which was ~~acquired~~ purchase on April 1, 1958. ¹⁴

It was this agency which made the Plaza Substation available for purchase by the State of California. The sale was executed on October 1, 1964. The price was \$37,500. The property titles and related documents on the property were transferred to the Department of General Services Administration. Ownership is still invested in the State of California. ¹⁵

* * * * *

Historical Retrospect

Presently there survives in the City of Los Angeles four substations which were built by the Los Angeles Railway Company. They are as follows:

- Huron Substation, southwest corner Avenue 28 and Huron
(built by 1907)
- Plaza Substation, 10 Olvera Street
(built by 1905)
- Slauson Substation, 5843 Towne Avenue [an integral part of the famed Division 5, which occupies the block on South Avalon Blvd., between West 53rd and 54th Streets, address 2300 W. 54 Street]
(built by 1907)
- Soto Substation, 560 Soto Street [northeast corner at Sixth and Soto]
(built by 1906)

Of these four surviving substations, Huron is the oldest in point of construction and service. Of these four, the largest by far is the

Slauson Substation and the related buildings which make up what was called Division 5. The substation opened in 1907 and the car houses, dubbed Division 5, in 1911.² This complex still stands and is presently occupied by a variety of assorted manufacturing enterprises.

Thus, the Plaza Substation can be labeled the second oldest surviving substation which was built and owned by the Los Angeles Railway Company. At one time it was one of fourteen such substations³ in operation by the company. Today, four remain standing.

* * * * *

Historical Assessment

An examination of surviving records and the published literature indicates that the Plaza Substation has no identifiable historical value. It was built by a construction firm; there was no identifiable distinguished architect involved; the design was commonplace, being used for several like contemporary structures built by the Los Angeles Railway Company. The structure was not used for any unusual or distinguished purpose--it was a distributing station supplying power needs to the electric railway lines for a specified area. It was a service facility.

In the light of criteria which are established for historic preservation, namely that any building which is considered for preservation should have "outstanding historical and cultural significance in the nation or in the state, region, or community in which it exists," in the light of such evaluation, the Plaza Substation is without merit.^{1/1}

* * * * *

NOTES

Preface

¹
In an interview with Mrs. Virginia Reece, Secretary, Southern California Rapid Transit District, I was informed that the records of the Los Angeles Transit Lines were destroyed after the firm was legally dissolved. This was concurred in by Mr. Charles E. Haudenschild, Real Estate Broker, Real Property Division, Southern California Rapid Transit District. Mr. Haudenschild recalled, for he had access to them, that the Los Angeles Transit Lines kept complete and detailed files on their property. Efforts to locate any surviving Los Angeles Transit Lines' material has proved negative..

* * * * *

Historical Background

¹
The most valuable survey, and an extensive one, is found in the manuscript by Edwin L. Lewis, "Street Railway Development in Los Angeles and Environs 1783-1895," prepared in 1935. This is volume one of his two-volume unpublished history. A copy is in the Huntington Library, with a carbon copy in the Office of the Secretary, Southern California Rapid Transit District.

More accessible, but less detailed is the article by Dumke cited in the following note. The "Sources" which follow these notes lists a number of other items, both published and unpublished.

²
Glenn S. Dumke, "Early Interurban Transportation in the Los Angeles Area," Quarterly of the Historical Society of Southern California

72000231

New Info

Property

Los Angeles Plaza Hist. Dist

BOUNDARY REVISION

INCREASE

DECREASE

MOVE

State

CA Los Angeles

Working Number

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos _____

Maps _____

This info. expands the descriptions and statements of significance for five buildings that are already included in this listed district

HISTORIAN

Patrick Andrews
11/17/81

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

The boundaries submitted with the original nomination were revised at the request of the NR. New sketch maps were submitted (site plans), but no new USGS. Therefore, the Sept. '72 USGS is incorrect; the Oct. '72 sketch maps, as well as the USGS submitted of this 1981 revision, are correct. All of the

OTHER

Grosvenor
11/30/81

buildings discussed in this additional info are already in the district. Only noted and added to the file.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS ~~BOUNDARY REVISION~~ IS ACCEPTED

B.K. Grosvenor

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11/30/81

ATTEST:

Patrick Andrews

CHIEF, BRANCH OF REGISTRATION

DATE 11/17/81

THIS FORM IS TO BE FILED WITH THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION.

State notified _____ Federal Register _____ Control Cards _____ ADP _____

INT: 580-78

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



May 3, 2016

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief, National Register and National Historic Landmark Program
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

**Subject: Los Angeles Plaza Historic District (Amendment)
Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California
National Register of Historic Places**

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Los Angeles Plaza Historic District (Amendment) to the National Register of Historic Places. This property is located in Los Angeles County, California. On April 18, 2016, the State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance.

The property was nominated on behalf of the property owners. No letters of support or objection were received.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact William Burg of my staff at 916-445-7004.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JP" or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

for
Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Los Angeles Plaza Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles

DATE RECEIVED: 5/06/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/21/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 72000231

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Los Angeles Plaza Historic District (Additional Documentation) provides accurate descriptive information regarding the full complement of contributing and non-contributing buildings located in the district and reframes the nomination narrative to reflect current NR standards. The boundaries of the district remain unchanged.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Additional Documentation

REVIEWER PAUL LUSIGNAU DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 6/21/16

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.